



ton disguise concerned



THE INDEPENDENT

FRIDAY 8 MARCH 1996 40p (IR 45p)



So what's funny about TV comedy?
Thomas Sutcliffe endures a week's output
Section Two, cover story

Play Formula 1 Dream Team
See Section Two, page 12



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Hole in ozone threatens UK

Worst damage ever is recorded this week

NICHOLAS SCHOON

The ozone layer over Britain has suffered the worst damage ever recorded, due to a combination of pollution and intense cold at high altitude.

The measurements, at Lerwick in Shetland and Cambridge in Cornwall, surprised and alarmed scientists. They had forecast that the ozone should be on the verge of starting a recovery after decades of deterioration, thanks to international treaties curbing emissions of the industrial gases and solvents which destroy it.

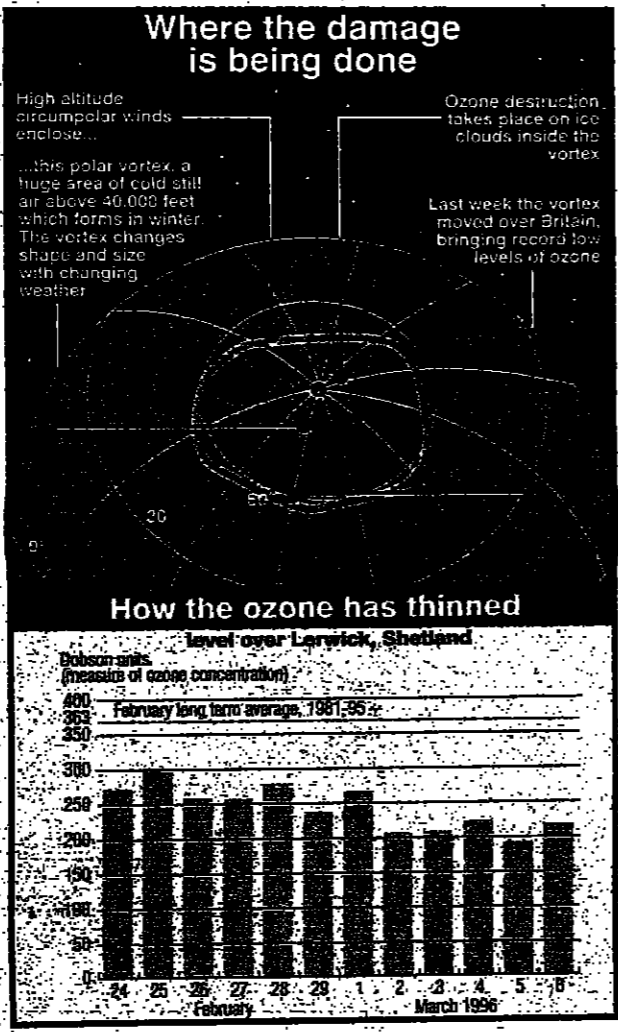
The ozone layer absorbs much of the harmful ultraviolet B radiation in the sun's rays. High levels of these UVB rays can cause skin cancer and cataracts in humans, and can affect the environment, including crops, wild plants and sea plankton.

On Tuesday the Met Office ozone recording station at Lerwick, one of only two in the country, recorded 195 Dobson Units - a measure of the total quantity of ozone in the atmosphere immediately above. It was the first time there had been a reading below 200 in Britain. The same low levels were recorded as far away as Cornwall, where the measure was 206 Dobson Units. That was the lowest level recorded there since it was set up 17 years ago.

At Lerwick, this February's readings have, overall, been well below the month's long term average - but they have been especially low in the past 10 days, reaching a peak with Tuesday's record.

Dr Joe Farman, the British Antarctic Survey scientist who first discovered the ozone hole over the South Pole, said: "This is certainly significant, and shows the problems haven't gone away."

"We've warned that things



would get worse before they start to get better, but it's impossible to make any precise predictions. With the very cold winters we have been getting at high altitude, the ozone loss could well accelerate."

Ozone is a gas found at very low concentrations in air. It absorbs UVB in the stratosphere - the upper atmosphere above 35,000 feet - and its concentration there fluctuates with changing weather patterns and season.

ozone destruction was detected above the Antarctic in the mid-1980s. Each Spring in the southern hemisphere an "ozone hole" opens up there - a continent-sized patch of stratosphere in which half or more of the ozone has been lost.

This is caused by a complex cycle of chemical reactions, driven by sunlight, which take place on the surface of high altitude ice clouds.

Scientists have been debating whether similar ozone holes could open up over the Arctic, covering populated regions in northern Europe, Russia, Alaska and Canada.

They have monitored substantial ozone losses in recent northern hemisphere Springs. Last year's was among the worst ever.

Dr Farman said the ozone destruction taking place this Spring over the northern hemisphere could be worse still. "We have to get it through to the politicians that we have not yet cleaned up this stuff," he said.

Man-made global warming, caused by a build-up of heat trapping gases, appears to be exacerbating the ozone loss. While temperatures rise in the lower atmosphere, those in the stratosphere drop. This makes sustained ozone destruction more likely, because it helps the formation of the high level ice clouds and allows them to exist for longer.

Since 1987, a series of international negotiations have imposed tighter controls on the production of ozone-destroying chemicals.

The latest agreement, under this Montreal Protocol treaty, took place in Vienna last December. But environmental organisations like Greenpeace and atmospheric scientists like Dr Farman say the rate of progress is still too slow.

Chechen capital in grip of rebels



PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Chechen rebels last night appeared to have taken control of a third of Grozny, after launching their most intensive offensive for months in an attempt to steal the limelight from Russian President Boris Yeltsin's efforts to settle the conflict.

After a second day of ferocious street fighting and heavy shelling in the wrecked capital, Russian reinforcements were streaming in to flush out the Chechens, who had seized more than 80 Russian construction workers as hostages and were reportedly trying to storm the city's television centre.

Medical teams were unable to reach the bodies littering the streets because of the intensity of the fighting, according to the Russian news agency Interfax.

After promising Russians that he would solve the 15-month war before the presidential elections in June, Mr Yeltsin was yesterday faced with a worsening conflict that is threatening his poll prospects.

The Chechens appeared to have stepped up the attack to coincide with a meeting of the Russian Security Council to hammer out a solution to the war, in which some 30,000 lives have been lost.

The president said after the meeting that he had a framework of a blueprint for a settlement, and promised to reveal more next month.

But as he spoke reports poured in of renewed fighting, in which Russian troops were under fire all across the city.

A force of between 500 and 1,000 rebels were in the city on the orders of the Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, who is rumoured to have placed them under command of Shamil Basayev, who led the mass hostage-taking raid on a southern Russian town last year. Although most reports were prevented from access, reports trickled out of battles around the city-centre headquarters of the regional government, and almost every Russian-occupied military post.

Reports also circulated that the rebels - who seized several police stations, a hospital and a hotel - had cut off the Russian lines of communication, creating confusion among their ranks.

Thorn in Yeltsin's side, page 13

Spoils of war: Homes in Grozny smoulder after a fierce bombardment during yesterday's clashes between Russian troops and separatist guerrillas

Fury over secret plan to scrap job rights

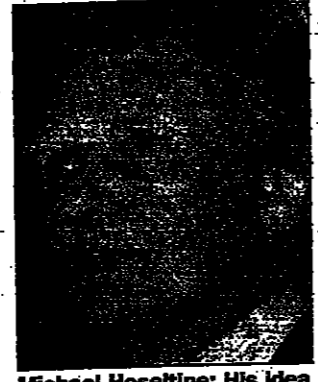
FRANCIA WYNN DAVIES
Political Correspondent

Michael Heseltine was at the centre of a political row last night after a leaked letter revealed secret plans by the Government to scrap the unfair dismissal rights of millions of workers in small firms.

The proposal by Mr Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, suffered a humiliating setback yesterday after the leak forced John Major to scrap an announcement planned for next Monday.

But it was clear that the Government would seek to remove the industrial tribunal rights of up to 10 million workers, if it could do so without falling foul of other laws.

Mr Major's intervention at Prime Minister's Questions followed the leak of a letter from Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, warning Mr



Michael Heseltine: His idea suffered humiliating setback

Heseltine of his "grave doubts" about going public with the "immensely controversial" suggestion without taking legal advice.

The letter, passed to the Liberal Democrats, disclosed that an announcement was scheduled to be part of a package of

measures on cutting red tape for small businesses at a conference on Monday.

Between 9 and 10 million workers could be affected by the proposal, originating from Mr Heseltine's Deregulation Unit, with a suggested saving of £200m in the costs of unfair dismissal and other employment claims in industrial tribunals.

Mr Lang's suggestion in the letter that legal advice should be taken from the Government's law officers stems from fears within the Department of Trade and Industry that sweeping away the rights of workers in small firms could fall foul of European law on sex discrimination, equality pay and pensions, maternity, health and safety and disability.

There was little sign yesterday, however, that ministers had any intention of dropping the plans altogether.

Tony Blair, the Labour

leader, appeared to conclude after Commons exchanges with Mr Major that the proposal had been "dropped". But Mr Major confined his reply to the Monday announcement and emphasised: "There can be no employment rights if there is no employment. What we are seeking to do is to maintain a fair balance between the rights of employees and the burdens on employers. We are therefore proposing to reduce or remove unnecessary burdens."

The leaked letter indicated a determination on the part of Mr Heseltine to press ahead, despite potential legal risks.

Mr Lang said: "I... fully appreciate the desirability of being able to make positive statements at the conference on 11 March. I have to say, however, that I have grave doubts about the wisdom of making any announcement about this particular issue until we have



Ian Lang: Warned of 'grave doubts' over the plan

received the law officers' advice on what might be legally possible.

"Any suggestion that employees in smaller firms were to be denied employment rights would, of course, be immensely controversial and it might be imprudent to attract such

criticism only to have to retract the proposals at a later date."

The plan drew immediate and loud condemnation from the opposition parties and the TUC. Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education and employment spokesman, said: "The letter reveals a shabby attempt at deregulation to save £200m. It also reveals that Michael Heseltine is trying to call the tune of many different Government departments."

David Blunkett, the shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said the proposal was the "thin end of the wedge" and the first step towards denying protection to all employees. "We need positive ways to enable small firms to develop. That should include a partnership approach between employers and employees, so that far more cases are resolved through conciliation well before the tribunal stage."

IN BRIEF

Oil spill report

The pilot and captain of the *Sea Empress* failed to discuss a plan of action to take the tanker into Milford Haven before she ran aground, according to an interim report on the oil spill published yesterday. Page 3

Single currency

A promise that a Tory government would only enter a single currency following a referendum is now in prospect within weeks. Page 2

Today's weather

Cloudy, cold and windy with rain spells. Section Two, page 33

Vicars blessed with personality tests

ANDREW BROWN
Religious Affairs Correspondent

If you can choose shapes which fit together with each other and arrange four sentences in a logically compelling order, then you could become Archdeacon of Canterbury. From next year the 700 prospective candidates for the Anglican priesthood will have to undergo psychological tests as part of their formal interview.

The Rev Christopher Cunliffe, director of vocations at the Advisory Board for Ministry, the

central Church department responsible for the selection and recruitment of priests, said: "The new tests are meant to give a more accurate assessment of a person's capacity for training. They might advantage those who don't present particularly well at the moment. You may have a candidate who talks very fluently and presents well but is not right; or you might be missing candidates who are good at thinking at depth but not good verbally."

The classic example of the second type would be Dr

Michael Ramsay, who became an outstandingly holy Archbishop of Canterbury despite what was regarded by his colleagues as a legendary social incompetence. Chris Brain, the leader of the Nine-O'Clock Service cult in Sheffield, who passed all the hoops of the Anglican selection procedure, would be an example of someone the new tests might help to exclude, Dr Cunliffe said.

The new tests, which will be regarded as a mixed blessing by many, will be added to the present selection process. This de-

rives from that used by the army to select its officers.

Psychological testing is already used by the Roman Catholic Church to screen its candidates for the ministry; but theirs places a greater emphasis on psychological stability under the strains of celibacy and loneliness, which are not expected to afflict Anglican candidates to the same extent.

The problem which confronts many Anglican dioceses is that many of their prospective priests come from a narrow background, and have little

feeling for the traditional role of the Church of England as something open to everyone. Their model of a congregation is of a self-conscious group clearly distinguished from the rest of society; while this may be the fate of the Church of England, it is one which the authorities are anxious to avoid.

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'Blunders' in minutes before oil disaster

STEVE BOGGAN
Chief Reporter

The pilot and captain of the *Sea Empress* failed to discuss a plan of action to take the tanker into Milford Haven before she ran aground, according to an interim report on the oil spill, published yesterday.

In a finding which confirms an *Independent* report last month that the pilot may have had no time to formulate a plan as the tide fell, the report says no route was agreed between the two men, even though there were no language problems.

Within days of the 147,000-tonne tanker spilling 70,000 tonnes of oil off the Welsh coast, questions were being asked about the apparent failure to draw up a plan. The Department of Transport said last night that there was no legal requirement for one.

However, last month, Captain Mark Andrews, the harbour master, said pilots normally boarded in good time to discuss a plan of action with the master, in this case, the Russian captain, Eduard Bolgov.

He said: "It wouldn't be normal practice to put the pilot on so late. The difficulty can be when it takes time getting the pilot on board."

The report, by the DoT's Marine Accident Investigation Branch, shows that the ship, its crew and documentation were all in order before it ran aground on February 15. It also shows that the pilot did not board the vessel as late as port officials suggested - 7.53pm - or as early as claimed by the tanker's managers, Acomarit - 7.38pm. The MAIB said the unnamed pilot boarded at 7.40pm.

It does not say, however, whether this was early enough to beat a retreating tide, that would have reached its lowest depth at 9.30pm. If that were missed, it would have been an

other eight hours before the *Sea Empress* could approach the harbour, Britain's biggest oil terminal.

The report said the pilot ordered "full ahead" at 7.44pm. It also said that published tidal information showed there would be an east-south-east tidal stream - towards the coast - at 8pm. By this time, the pilot had ordered "progressive changes to port [away from the coast to resist the tidal stream]" and the vessel was one mile from the entrance to the West Channel.

The report then paints a picture of the pilot realising the vessel was further east than he had expected and ordering a five-degree turn to port. At 8.07pm, as the ship came alongside the Mid Channel Rock Light House, a "shuddering vibration" began. The pilot called out the waiting harbour tugs and the vessel eventually came to rest three-tenths of a mile from the Mill Buoy.

Last night, Labour repeated calls for an independent inquiry into the disaster. The shadow Secretary of State for Transport, Clare Short, said: "The most important question to be answered concerns the direction of the salvage operation. Ministers must accept their overall executive responsibility."

"An accident was turned into a disaster. We are still concerned that this inquiry will not be adequate to draw out the real responsibility for the disaster. There must be a truly independent inquiry."

Nick Ainger, the Labour MP for Pembroke, repeated the calls for an inquiry. He has consistently argued that there were too few salvage tugs available to prevent the *Sea Empress* for repeatedly smashing against the rocks. "A key issue is what was done by the authorities after the vessel ran aground and those questions have not yet been answered," he said.

Pasta notes ... how the two cooks compare in the helpings of words and food



DELIA
Appearance: Housewife, reassuring, dowdy. Determinedly untrendy. Reminiscent of your best friend's mum at school.
Best known book: *Delia Smith's Winter Collection* - heavily discounted over Christmas, it became a runaway bestseller. Every dinner party has one.
Most unlikely recipe: Four-nut chocolate brownies? Delia is not one for trendy combinations.
TV style: Dogged and slightly breathless; not a natural, hence the awkward pauses and the air of general discomfort.
Prose style: Deeply practical, relentlessly optimistic, evokes joints sizzling in the oven, puddings steaming merrily on the stove, bread baking cheerily, and so on.
Favourite recipe: Roast duck with sour cherry sauce (the first thing she learned to cook while washing up in a restaurant); crepes suzettes - blame her for bringing them back into fashion.
Favourite words: "Absolutely", "superb", "pop", "practical", "pretty", "no fuss".
Most likely to say: Cranberries.
Least likely to say: God, let's just go to MacDonalds.

SOPHIE
Spiky feminist who spends a lot of the hairdresser, good time in Bet Lynch saloons, may have been a punk when about 15.
Eat Your Greens: just as Delia spends a lot of time on the nice EBC, Sophie's natural home is Channel 4 where she presented *Eat Your Greens* and *Grow Your Greens* and, most recently, *Sophie's Meat Course*.
Esiray-en-Abou (spinach with prunes).
Intense and enthusiastic, hovers up her offerings, happily tears carcasses from lamb to lamb and gets down to it with sweetbread.
Emphasis on saving money; businesslike; happy to warn you if a particular dish (artichokes, for example) will make you fat.
Swiss chard with olives au grain.
"Earthy", "substantial", "olive oil", "whizz", "tacky", "zap", "doddle".
But they're really good for you!
But I don't like carrots.



Sweet and sour authors on book shelf

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

Question: When does TV cookery become art? Answer: When it is the work of Delia Smith, according to the *Times Literary Supplement*.

The edition is issued in this week's edition, with the centre pages devoted to a deconstruction of modern cookery writing by Eric Griffiths, a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. But while the don compares the motherly writing of *Delia Smith's Winter Collection* to the Queen, he dismisses Sophie Grigson, author and

presenter of *Sophie's Meat Course*, as a "younger Royal", similar to the Duchess of York. "Delia and her cooking transcend sensuous immediacy as do marble goddesses," Dr Griffiths writes in an analysis which will shock those who thought her recipes fairly straightforward. "Poised like a dancer on point above a melody which she commands," Delia Smith's favourite verb is "pop"; just pop it in the oven. Her world is non-stick, pliable and "puts things - in a bowl, over heat."

Delia's work "expresses itself best in her over-arching and point-instant grasp of time," the English literature lecturer says. "Demonstrating her recipe for Hung Shao Pork, she says 'and then' 17 times in the few minutes she needs to show us how ... She continues to mark time, like a piano teacher, quite as firmly in her books."

"Her recipes do not just begin, they tell you they are at the beginning: 'Begin by cutting the pumpkin in half'. She stays with you all the way, ticking off the instructions - 'First of all ... When ... Now ... Next ... Then ... Now ... until we arrive together at a 'Finally' (from the recipe for Italian Stuffed Aubergines). No other cookery writer so resembles a guardian angel, beating its wings over you at every step."

By contrast, the more radical Sophie, daughter of the cookery writer, Jane Grigson, is roasted for her hurried style, "fuzzed" geography and "poor" knowledge of history. "According to *Sophie's Meat Course*, what you do is 'throw them [chops] under the grill with nothing more than a light brushing of olive oil' or 'throw together yoghurt and mint sauce' or, thanking God, realise that 'it tastes even better when

a few mushrooms are thrown in', Mr Griffiths observes. "As befits a younger royal, Sophie Grigson makes confessions aplenty. She gets things off her chest: 'to be honest, I'm not a great gravy fan', 'to be honest, I prefer to bake them slowly in the oven'. But it is her attitude which really lets her down, Dr Griffiths concludes. "You might find a dish needed only to be 'zipped into the oven shortly before supper'. This is Duchess of York stuff ('pongy', 'doddle', 'whizzo') in contrast to the regal self-control, the dowdy reticence, of Delia Smith."

decided individual departments rather than rely on a central funding system, no one would take responsibility for the societies. The sixth learned society, the Royal Academy, is protected by a 999-year lease, which means it can stay indefinitely.

Richard Bateman, chairman of the joint committee of the learned societies, said: "We've taken legal advice, and the Government has taken legal advice, and there are some differences between legal advisers, but we hope it can be resolved satisfactorily."

Learned societies fight to keep historic homes

REBECCA FOWLER

Five of the learned societies of Britain are fighting to retain their historic homes in Burlington House, London, amid a legal dispute with the Government over who owns the property.

The Geological Society, the Astronomical Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Society of Antiquaries and the Linnean Society, have been evicted at the colonnaded building in the heart of Piccadilly since 1874. They were moved there from

Somerset House to make room for the Inland Revenue, and it was offered to them as a base by the then prime minister, Lord Palmerston, who said they would be provided with accommodation "mainly for the advantage of the country."

But when the Government

concludes today. The union's recently appointed national chairman, John Boddington, who does not face any allegations of impropriety himself, yesterday conceded that the mood of his members was one of "anger and frustration", and said that he had called the conference to reassure members. "The financial controls are now improved - we have put the house in order," he said.

Sleaze charge at Oxford's nursery for politicians

LOUISE JURY

It is renowned as the training ground of politicians, a forum whose despatch boxes mimic Westminster. But the Oxford Union is now echoing the House of Commons in another way - allegations of sleaze.

In a rare move, Jonathan Wolf, 21, this term's president of the debating society has been disqualified from office for misusing his position. Last night, two days before the end of term, when he should have been hosting Cabinet ministers Peter Lilley and William Waldegrave for his farewell debate, he was sidelined. His place in the president's chair was taken by Paul Kenward, who was due to take up the post next term.

The allegations may not be cash-for-questions, but claims that Mr Wolf, a physics student at Corpus Christi college, campaigned for one of the rivals to succeed him - against Union rules - have caused fierce factional fighting.

A tribunal hearing of two former union presidents, one now a QC, and a former election returning officer, sat late into the night on Tuesday to listen to the accusations made by student Simon Baker against Mr Wolf under the Union constitution's notorious Rule 33, which governs election protocol. The details of the charges against him have not been revealed.



Jonathan Wolf: Disqualified as Oxford Union president

Mr Baker is a supporter of Amanda Pritchard, a second-year history student, whose bid to hold the post of president in the term after next failed by 13 votes against Jenny Carter Manning, a final year law student and friend of Mr Wolf. Both sides were reputed to have taken legal advice. Afterwards, as regulations dictate, a public notice was posted in the hallway of the historic Union building: "Tribunal decision - GUILTY. Penalty - Jonathan Wolf is disqualified from office." Union spokeswoman Lucy Manning said she could not comment until the tribunal's full report, due by tomorrow, is published. Mr Wolf said he regretted his decision.

Five beds, three hospitals in one week for woman

PETER VICTOR

A seriously ill grandmother was moved in and out of five beds at three hospitals in the space of a week, it emerged yesterday. Health campaigners last night described the case as "awful" and "distressing".

Doris Wiltshire, a 68-year-old widow, was even woken up at 3am to be transferred to another hospital only days after undergoing emergency surgery. But after a week of treatment, the pensioner has now been returned to the hospital where she was first admitted.

Mrs Wiltshire was taken to Southampton General Hospital with stomach pains at 11am on 26 February. Doctors found she was suffering from severe peritonitis - inflammation of part of the abdomen - and needed emergency surgery.

The operation took place at 9.30pm and showed Mrs Wiltshire had a perforated bowel. Her daughter, Mrs Tina Longhurst, 36, said a doctor rang her to say her mother might not survive. An upset Mrs Longhurst was then told her mother's intensive care bed was needed and she had to be moved 12 miles to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester at 1.30am.

Two days later, on 28 February, Mrs Wiltshire was transferred back to the intensive care unit at the general hospital in Southampton. She stayed there

for three days until she was woken at 3am to the Royal South Hants Hospital on 2 March. On 4 March, she was transferred back to Southampton General Hospital where her condition was "comfortable" yesterday.

Mrs Longhurst, of Totton, Hants, said: "I'm furious that my mum was shunted around. I have nothing but praise for the doctors and nurses, but I can't believe a gravely ill woman can be disturbed in the night after emergency surgery and moved to a different hospital."

Marjory Kay, a Southampton NHS Trust spokeswoman, said: "The trust has approved plans to expand our intensive care unit from 18 beds to 34, but it is expensive and we need to find the money for it. It was not an ideal situation, but we found this patient the care she needed and her treatment was successful."

Dr David Bennett, director of intensive care at St George's Hospital in London and a campaigner for more high dependency beds, condemned the case as "awful". He said: "Despite what the politicians say, this is an ongoing problem that will continue until current policy changes. There needs to be a doubling of the number of higher dependency beds."

An Age Concern spokesman said: "It is particularly distressing for an older person to be moved at such short notice and such upheaval could hinder their recovery."



Simon Cadell: Two year fight against lymph cancer

'Hi-de-Hi' star dies of cancer

The actor Simon Cadell, star of the BBC comedy *Hi-de-Hi*, has died after a long struggle against cancer, his father-in-law said yesterday.

Cadell, 45, a father of two, discovered he had lymph cancer as he was recovering from a heart attack three years ago. David Croft, his father-in-law and *Hi-de-Hi* co-author, said that after a two-year struggle against the disease Cadell died on Wednesday night. "A brilliant career tragically cut short."

Chris Pye, the BBC's head of entertainment group, said: "Simon Cadell was an extremely gifted actor, whose charm shone through every performance."

The actor's family were said to be "shattered" and Cadell's widow was too upset to speak to the media. Cadell was being treated for the cancer at the Harley Street Clinic in London. As well as playing the upper-crust entertainment manager at Maplins holiday camp in *Hi-de-Hi*, Cadell's television career

included two series of *Enemy at the Door* for LWT, three series of *Life Without George* and the comedy *Blot on the Landscape*. He appeared at the National Theatre and played many leading West End roles, including *Travels With My Aunt*.

Cadell has finished a television film, *Circle of Deceit*, due to be shown at Easter. He had also recently worked with Richard E Grant on the film *In the Cool Light of Day*.
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Killer diseases return to haunt Europe

GLENDA COOPER

An "incredible" resurgence of contagious diseases that once seemed conquered are threatening Europe, says the World Health Organisation.

Diphtheria, cholera and tuberculosis are making a comeback following the breakdown of the former Soviet Union, when the fragile economies of the new states led to a neglect of mass immunisation and increased migration.

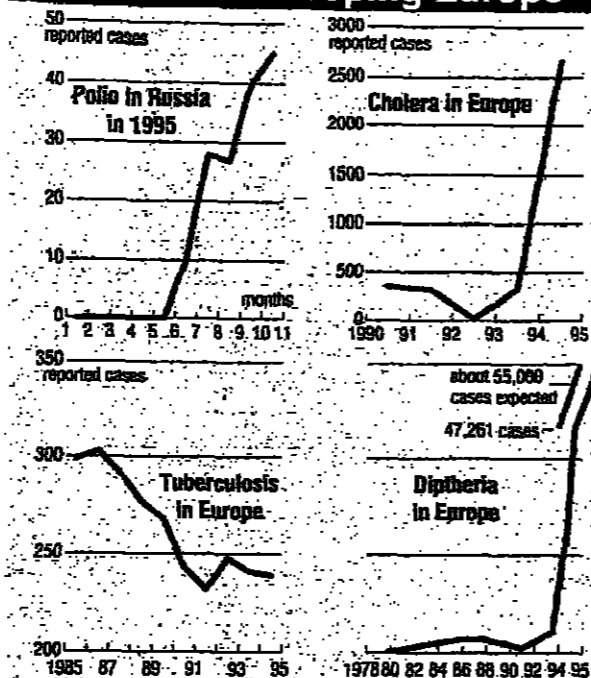
A diphtheria epidemic sweeping the independent states of the former Soviet Union has been declared an international health emergency by the WHO and Unicef. Europe now accounts for 80 per cent of diphtheria cases reported world-wide. In 1994 over 47,000 people in these countries contracted the disease - a 250 per cent increase over the previous year - and there were 55,000 cases in 1995.

Although the majority of diphtheria cases were in the former Soviet Union, it has spread. From 1993-94 around 20 cases were imported to other European nations - 10 in Germany, 10 in Poland, four in Finland and one in Norway.

Dr Siegfried Dittman, co-ordinator of the WHO's immunisation and vaccine programme, commented: "This is an incredible re-emergence of infectious diseases which we thought we had conquered."

The number of registered cholera cases in the WHO European region increased nine times from 1993 to 1994. In 1995 17 of the 50 member states reported at least one imported case of cholera. Tuberculosis

Diseases sweeping Europe



strains resistant to drugs are increasing and the downward trend of reported cases of the disease in western Europe has levelled off. And malaria, a nearly forgotten disease in 1980s Europe, has exploded in recent years from 20,000 cases in 1992 to more than 100,000 last year.

In Britain there have been 25 cases of diphtheria imported between 1990 and 1994, and nearly 40 cases of imported cholera from 1993 to 1995. Tuberculosis has remained constant at around 5,500 to 6,000

cases reported per year. Robert George, a director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, said: "We have to be absolutely aware to be ready. The UK is not under major threat at the moment but there is no cause for complacency."

In western Europe communicable diseases are responsible for 7 per cent of deaths and more than 60 per cent of all acute illnesses. Elsewhere in Europe those percentages are much higher.

The main causes of the resurgence in such diseases is found



Painful lesson: The loss of vaccinations in the former Soviet Union has led to the re-emergence of TB, cholera and diphtheria. Photograph: Raoul Dron

in the collapse of the former Soviet Union. With the unrest and economic fragility that followed, vaccination programmes often suffered. Economic and social difficulties also led to breakdowns in sanitary infrastructures

and water supplies. Dr Jo Asvall, regional director of the WHO, said: "As late as 1994 all these countries which came out of the former Soviet Union lost 15 per cent of their gross national product. The national

economy crumbled and this had a disastrous effect on health care systems... It is a huge problem and will continue to grow if something serious isn't done about it."

The WHO is calling for a

comprehensive strategy to be implemented immediately across Europe. Mass immunisation should be strengthened, particularly in the newly independent states. Surveillance to help poorer countries improve basic hygiene and water quality.

emerging and re-emerging diseases should also be improved by establishing a network of national laboratories, and aid should be supplied to help

Six teenagers convicted of gang-rape

Six members of a notorious teenage street gang were given youth detention sentences totalling 49 years yesterday after being convicted of a gang-rape of two schoolgirls.

The Old Bailey heard that the two 15-year-old girls were taken by the gang to a house in Brixton, south London, where up to 14 teenage boys - some of whom are still at large - queued up to rape or attempt to rape them.

The horrific assault, in October 1994, has caused lasting torment to the two young victims, who were threatened, taunted and abused by other youngsters after reporting their ordeal to police. So fearful for their safety were they that they were kept in constant paper contact with officers handling their case.

Passing sentence, Judge Gerald Gordon said that the six defendants - all aged 15 or 16 and from the Brixton area - had shown "no remorse" for their actions. He added: "These two girls were subjected to repeated humiliation and degradation by you."

"They were not really treated like human beings. They were treated with callous disregard for their feelings, like sex objects to be used and then cast aside."

The judge said that most, if not all, of the defendants were

members of the so-called Younger Younger 28s Posse in Brixton.

In all, the six defendants were convicted of seven rapes and one attempted rape of the first girl and two rapes and two attempted rapes of the second.

Spencer Baptiste, 16, convicted of raping one girl twice and attempting to rape the other, was sentenced to three separate four and a half-year terms of youth detention, to run concurrently.

His half-brother, Darren Evans, 15, was convicted of raping the first girl twice and was sentenced to two four-year terms to run concurrently.

Junior Parkes, 16, was convicted of the attempted rape of the first girl and rape of the second, and was sentenced to two four-year terms to run concurrently.

Dwayne Grant, 15, was convicted of raping the first girl, and was sentenced to a three and a half-year term.

Wayne Shelton, 16, convicted of raping each girl once, was sentenced to two four-year terms to run concurrently.

Ricky Stephenson, 16, was convicted of raping the first girl and attempting to rape the second, and was sentenced to two four-year terms, to run concurrently.

All had pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Vegetables 'do not protect foetus'

LIZ HUNT

Health Editor

Government advice to women who want to get pregnant to boost their vitamin folate levels by eating more fresh vegetables and pulses to protect a developing foetus is misleading, according to new research.

Doctors in Northern Ireland say that only taking folic acid - the synthetic form of the vitamin - as a supplement, or in foods fortified with it, can produce blood levels of the vitamin which are likely to have a beneficial effect. Folate is essential for brain and spinal cord development in the foetus and there is a well-established link with folate deficiency and spina bifida and other neural tube defects (NTDs).

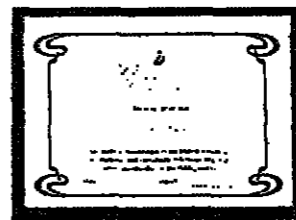
The new research shows that in women who increased their dietary intake, or who were given dietary advice only, blood concentrations of folate did not increase substantially. In women taking supplements or eating fortified foods, they did.

In tomorrow's issue of the *Lancet*, Dr Geraldine Cuskelly and colleagues from Ulster University, Coleraine, suggest that folic acid is better assimilated by the body than folate from foods such as broccoli, spinach, asparagus and Brussels sprouts. The Folic Acid Campaign said women were advised to supplement their diets with 400mcg folic acid a day.

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Council patrols 'key to future of policing'

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

More council-run patrols and private security guards are needed to act as the "eyes and ears" of the police, an independent inquiry has concluded. Sweeping changes are needed to the police if the service is to cope with the growing crime rate and increasing public demand for officers on the beat, says the report published today by an influential com-

mittee that includes two chief constables. It also calls on the Government to bring in legislation to regulate the booming private security industry.

The suggestions come a week after the Audit Commission published a report saying that there was an insatiable public demand for bobbies on the beat and that out of the average police force of 2,500 only 125 of them were on patrol at any one time.

One of the central recommendations of today's report is for local authorities to carry out more trials with their own uniformed patrols and security guards, and for a relaxation of the rank structure to allow more flexible policing. It cites the council-run security patrol force in Sedgefield, Co Durham, as a possible model. It also advocates more radical experimentation and gives two Dutch examples. In one case city wardens, who carry

radios but have no special powers, are used in 26 Dutch cities. In the second, some police forces in the Netherlands have appointed officers with the title "politie-surveillant", or police patroller, which is a rank below that of the ordinary constable. It also suggests having part time officers to work at times of high demand, such as when children leave school and at pub closing time, and greater use of volunteer policemen and

women known as Specials. However, the report, *The Role and Responsibilities of the Police*, stresses that it is against establishing a two-tier policing system in the United Kingdom. The study, set up by the Police Foundation and the Policy Studies Institute, says that alternatives are needed because "it has become increasingly clear that the police can only have a relatively limited impact on aggregate crime statistics and, indeed, that the whole

criminal justice apparatus can only ever be one part in an overall strategy to reduce crime". As part of the strategy the inquiry recommends statutory regulation of the private security industry in which all firms would be licensed by an independent authority, who would vet guards and investigate any complaints. Last year the all-party Commons Home Affairs Select Committee made a similar recommendation, but the Gov-

ernment has so far refused to act. The inquiry says that police forces should become more flexible and more of a "learning organisation", which would include greater investment in new technology, sharing more information and giving more responsibility and power to lower-rank officers. Sir John Cassels, chairman of the committee, said a good example of a learning organisation was British Airways or Nissan

in Japan, in which front-line staff are encouraged to show initiative and pass on their skills. The report calls for new legislation to force all local authorities to draw up safety plans for their communities. The inquiry's findings have been sent to the Home Secretary, all police forces and local authorities. *The Role and Responsibilities of the Police*, £8. The Independent Committee of Inquiry, 1 Glyn St, London SE11 5RA.

Prescription for change: Profession asks Government to redefine its role amid growing concern over criminal investigations

GPs seek to define new 'core contract'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

Family doctors' leaders want to define a new "core contract" with extra payments for some work which many GPs do already.

Their move comes as Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, is offering family doctors an expanded role - taking more work traditionally done in hospital into general practice.

Agreeing a definition of core GP services is "absolutely crucial" to progress towards the new GPs' contract which Mr Dorrell has implied is on offer. Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the British Medical Association's General Medical Services Committee said in an interview with the *Independent*.

He said that over the past decade, large amounts of extra work had "slid into" general practice. The dramatic expansion of nursing homes had placed heavy demands on GPs from high-dependency patients who used to be in long-stay beds, he said. They had brought in work "that is not general practice work".

GPs were being expected to monitor a growing range of treatments, from complex anticoagulant treatments for patients to treatments for arthritis.



Seeking clarification: The role and responsibilities of family doctors must be tightly defined, according to Dr Ian Bogle. Photograph: Dillon Bryden

under consultant care and supervision. Drug treatments for infertility or cancer of the prostate and some other cancers had moved into general practice, initially to shift the drug costs from hospitals, but with the effect of adding work formerly done in hospitals to the family doctors' load. Other GPs had taken on drug and solvent abuse work.

Much of this was work "that

we would say was specialist work, outside of core general practice", he said.

The BMA could also mean a demand to split the contract into day and night services, with some GPs shedding their 24-hour responsibility for patients while others provide night cover only.

The BMA's stance points to a battle ahead between GPs and the Government, with ministers

resisting doctors' moves to establish a restricted definition of their job, while at the same time GPs seek contracts from health authorities for what they define as "non-core" services.

Dr Bogle said that with morale amongst family doctors collapsing and fewer junior doctors opting for general practice because of the workload, it was "vital" that family doctors "clearly defined what the

current job was and what should be excluded".

Doctors' negotiators would define the core job and it would be up to individual family doctors whether they continued doing work beyond it or sought extra payment from health authorities.

GPs also want to drop some of the "crazy" aspects of health promotion in their present contract - simply counting the

number of smokers on their list, or screening over-75s annually - for which there was no evidence of an improvement in health care.

Defining the core was "an immensely difficult task", Dr Bogle conceded, and it would have to change over time.

A document defining the core is to be put to the BMA's family doctors committee later this month.

Doctors facing 'sinister trend' of prosecutions

NICHOLAS TIMMINS

The British Medical Association yesterday attacked a "sinister trend" in which it is claimed that doctors are facing an increased risk of criminal charges, including manslaughter, when patients die in unusual circumstances.

The Crown Prosecution Service has recently considered or is still considering proceedings against five doctors, and last year it unsuccessfully prosecuted an obstetrician for unlawfully procuring an abortion when he removed a foetus, during a hysterectomy, without the patient's consent.

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the council of the BMA, said: "I do not think professional people doing their job should face criminal proceedings when mistakes occur." In some cases, he added, the "law is an utter ass" and there appeared to be a "sinister change occurring in the legal environment in which doctors have to operate".

He was not, he said, seeking immunity from prosecution for doctors. But if criminal proceedings became more common it would have big implications for doctors' relations with their patients and for defensive medicine. Doctors would not risk some procedures and would over-order X-rays and other tests to protect themselves.

Cases at present with the CPS or recently considered include that of Mary Ormerod, aged 85, who allegedly starved to death after her GP stopped a food supplement at a nursing home in Preston. Carol Burwash, 53, died after allegedly being given a painkiller at 10 times the dose prescribed for her, following a hysterectomy at Mid-Down Hospital. A decision is also pending over Stephen Hext, a psychiatric patient who jumped from a multi-storey car park after treatment at the Edith Morgan Centre in Torbay.

A fourth case involved Ann Pritchard, who was admitted to the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary after a drug overdose but who died after she went into a diabetic coma, and a fifth was that of Alexandra McConnell, aged 9, who died in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, after contracting chicken pox which she proved unable to resist because of steroid therapy for an eye infection.

In the last two cases, the CPS yesterday said there was insufficient evidence to proceed.

A spokeswoman, however, denied there had been any change of policy or that it was "seeking out" cases for prosecution. Doctors, however, could not be given blanket immunity any more than any other group. "Families have the right to have cases properly investigated."

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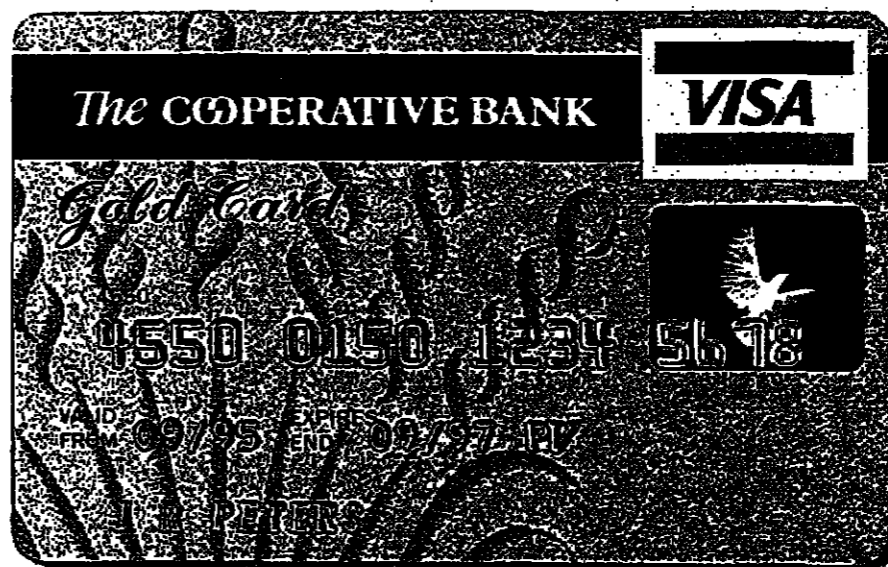
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Schools' cash piles are out of balance

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Primary schools are holding cash balances of up to £100,000 while others are in the red, says a report from the Audit Commission published yesterday.

In secondary schools, the figures for reserves range from £250,000 to cash deficits.

The size of school balances caused a row last year when Conservative MPs said schools should be spending their reserves rather than protesting about spending cuts. The latest report, which gives the first official figures on school budgets since last year's cuts, shows that three in five schools are digging into their balances to pay running costs for the current financial year.

Most balances, says the report on 71 schools, are earmarked for specific projects but some schools are keeping thousands of pounds in the bank for no particular reason.

The commission says balances should be kept to a prudent minimum and held for clearly stated purposes.

The primary school with more than £100,000 in the bank has fewer than 100 pupils - but it was saving up for an unspecified project. However, one primary school had more than £60,000 which had not been earmarked and one secondary had £75,000, which it was not saving for a specific purpose.

The report shows that in one-third of schools, the amount of cash spent on each pupil went down last year. Pupil-teacher ratios are expected to rise this year to 23.2 in primary and 16.5 in secondary schools.

However, the amount schools of similar size have to spend on each pupil, from budgets delegated to them by local authorities, varies dramatically.

Some primary schools of between 100 and 200 pupils have about £2,750 per pupil compared with others which have only £1,250. Secondary school spending ranges from a high of £2,900 to around £1,800.

David Whitbread, education under secretary at the Association of County Councils, said: "Schools with delegated budgets need to have balances to cope with contingencies. Some schools need larger balances if they are saving up to buy a new mini-bus or plan to redecorate the school every three years."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "They [schools] can't plan for the future when they have to draw money out of their balances for running costs. The impact is seen in rising class sizes and resource shortages."

Four out of five company directors believe that school leavers and graduates do not match up to basic literacy and numeracy standards, according to an Institute of Directors survey published yesterday.

Sculptor's daughter loses legacy battle

The sculptor Henry Moore's daughter Mary yesterday lost the latest round in her battle to gain control of millions of pounds' worth of her father's work.

Mary Spencer Moore Danowski, 49, had appealed against a 1993 High Court ruling relating to the ownership of her father's enormous artistic output between 1977 and his death, aged 88, in 1986.

She and her mother helped the sculptor set up the charitable Henry Moore Foundation in 1976. In 1977, Moore became an employee of the foundation's trading arm, HMF Enterprises, because of his worry over tax liabilities. The foundation's studios and 70-acre garden at the sculptor's former home, Hog-

lands, near Much Hadham in Hertfordshire, contain more than 600 priceless Moore sculptures. Mrs Danowski claimed that Moore's artist's copies of the 215 bronzes he produced during this period were the sculptor's property and became part of his estate after his death.

But Lord Justice Nourse, sitting in the Court of Appeal, upheld the 1993 judgment, ruling that the 1977 agreement stated plainly that HMF Enterprises had ownership of any future work, including artist's copies.

Mrs Danowski, who was not in court to hear the judgment, was ordered to pay the costs of the appeal, and was refused leave for a further appeal to the House of Lords.

Plastic fantastic upstages Prada

TAM SIN BLANCHARD
Fashion Editor

The late Franco Moschino would have given his approval to the talented team of young designers who are taking his name into the new millennium.

Presenting their new creations immediately after those of Prada may have given lesser designers cold sweats, but they chose instead to poke fun at the competition. When a trademark nylon Prada bag was worn to open the Moschino show, the familiar Prada logo read "Pasta" instead.

Unlike the rest of Milan, Moschino trades on its reputation for making fashion funny.

Miu Miu Prada need not have been too worried though. Her collection of luxury classics was presented with customary panache and she had only to look around the audience to know that she still has her finger on the pulse.

Prada's spring/summer granny jackets and skirt suits, and loose basket-weave print nylon trousers were being worn

in abundance. The only problem is that the clothes have such a distinctive trademark they become instantly dated.

But this mass Prada hysteria is a sign of the label's far-reaching influence. It will be seen - not only worn head to foot by those in the know - but also on the catwalks of other designers, from London to New York, where the label's second, younger line, Miu Miu, will be shown at the end of the month.

After seeing yesterday's collection for autumn/winter 1996, the uninitiated would be forgiven for wondering what all the fuss is about. For here were simple, sensible clothes that might not look so special if you did not know the label inside them.

The use of late Sixties/early Seventies bathroom tile prints in brown and orange has continued into the collection for next winter, as have straight-legged trousers and thick matt nylon nurses' dresses. There were also plain cashmere V-neck jumpers that, unlike the prints, will be wardrobe staples season after season.



A Moschino inflatable shawl

Photograph: Paolo Cocco



Claudia Schiffer models for Fendi Photograph: Paolo Cocco

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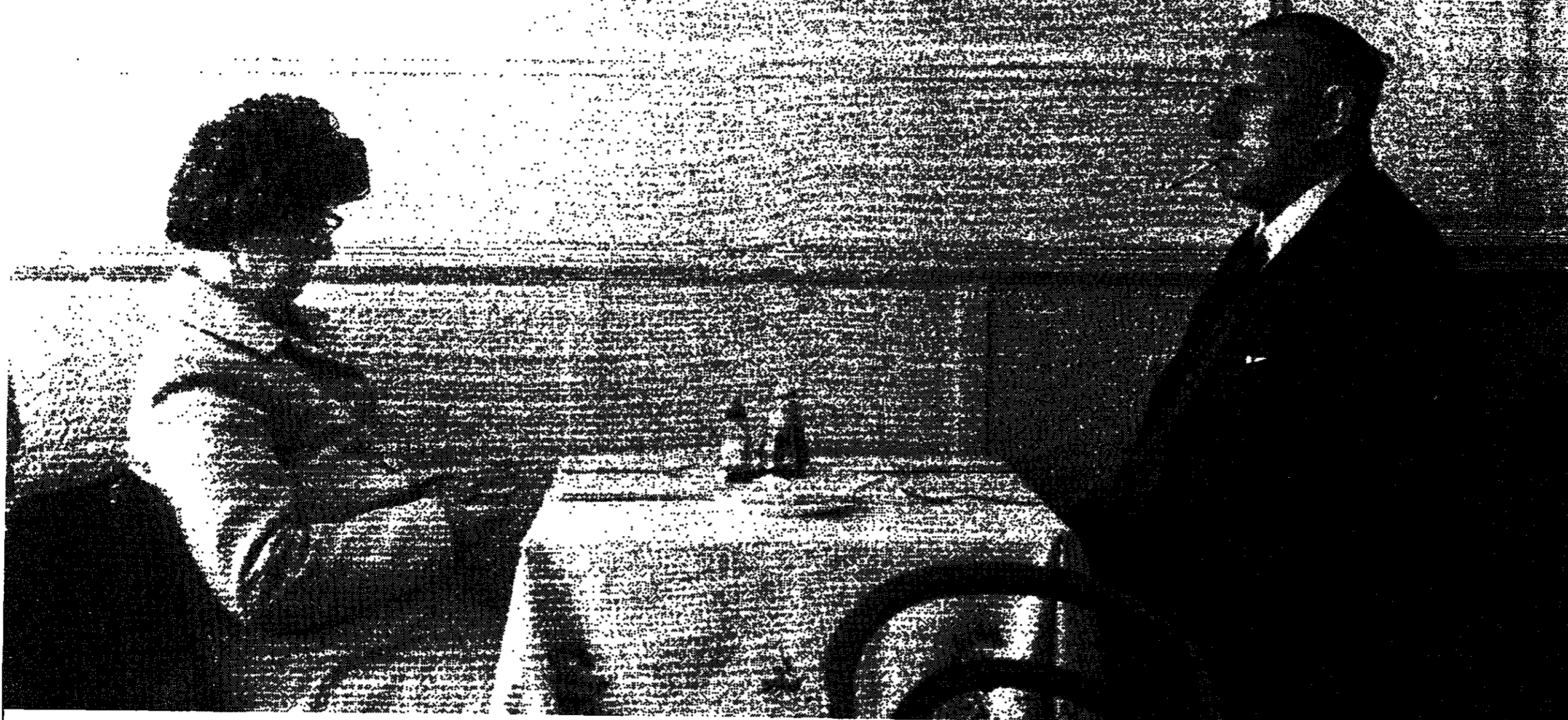
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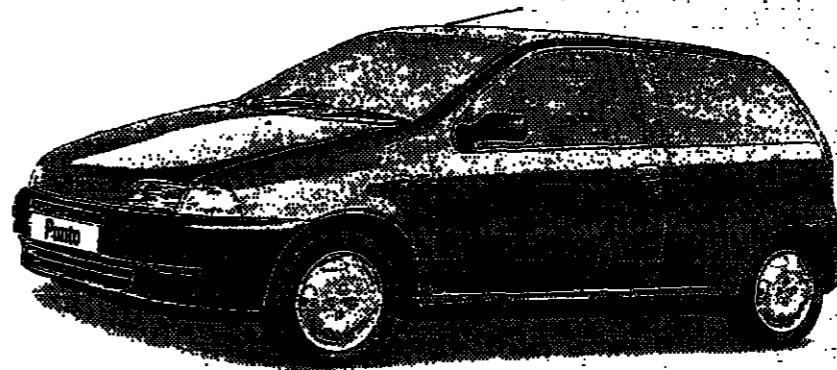
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Barbara Cannon, mother of one of the jailed servicemen, outside the courthouse in Okinawa. Photograph: Reuters

Marines jailed for rape that strained US links to Japan

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Tokyo

Three American servicemen were jailed yesterday for the gang-rape of a 12-year-old Japanese girl, at the end of a case which has outraged Japan and undermined security ties between Tokyo and Washington. Navy Seaman Marcus Gill, 23, and Marine Private Rodrico Harp, 21, were sentenced to seven years for the abduction and rape of the schoolgirl in the southern island of Okinawa on 4 September last year. A third serviceman, Marine Private Kendrick Ledet, 20, received a lighter sentence of six and a half years on the grounds that although he tried to rape the girl he was incapable of intercourse.

The victim was walking home from a shopping expedition in northern Okinawa when she was bundled into a hired car by the three men who drove her to a

nearby beach and took turns raping her. Prosecutors had called for 10-year terms for the men, but the sentences were still stiff by the standards of Japan, where rapists typically go down for three or four years.

The crime unleashed emotions in Okinawa. Three months before the rape, Okinawans had marked the 50th anniversary of the battle which killed 150,000 civilians in the dying days of the Second World War. For 27 years after, the island was part of the United States. Even after it reverted to Japan in 1972, the island continued to bear the overwhelming burden of American forces. Okinawa amounts to less than 1 per cent of Japan's total area, but houses up to 29,000 of the 47,000 US troops stationed in the country.

The outrage was compounded when the US authorities refused to hand the suspects over to the Japanese police, under a bilateral agreement which allows servicemen to remain in military custody until indicted.

For several weeks there were demonstrations, culminating in a rally in October at which 85,000 Okinawans called for the withdrawal of the US bases. The pressure increased when the Socialist governor of Okinawa, Masahide Ota, refused to sign documents necessary for the leasing of the land occupied by the US military.

The affair has revived calls for the abandonment of the US-Japan Security Treaty, regarded by Washington as its most important military alliance. Last November the US Defence Secretary, William Perry, was forced to make a special visit to calm the waters. The subject will be high on the agenda when the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, entertains President Bill Clinton at a summit in Tokyo next month. A joint committee has been set up to consider ways of reducing Okinawa's burden.

For the time being, both sides insist the number of US troops in Japan will not be

reduced, but units may be relocated on the Japanese mainland. Last month, a US general conceded that plans were being considered to relocate American forces in the Pacific to Darwin, northern Australia.

Even after yesterday's sentencing, the affair is not over. American lawyers representing the three men said they would appeal. Throughout the trial there have been claims of forced confessions and legal irregularities.

The system of interrogations, for 23 days in this particular case, without the assistance of an attorney is a rotten system, which must change, said Michael Griffith, an American attorney.

An application to transfer the hearing elsewhere, on the grounds that inflamed public opinion made a fair trial in Okinawa impossible, was earlier rejected by the Supreme Court. An American Embassy spokesman declined to comment on the trial.

Dole set to freeze out Forbes in New York

DAVID USBORNE
New York

Under sleet and snow, New York Republicans voted yesterday in a primary that seemed set to hand another win to Senator Bob Dole and put him all but beyond the reach of his remaining rivals for his party's presidential nomination.

The only suspense was provided by Steve Forbes, who appeared at the last moment at least to be narrowing Mr Dole's lead. A victory by Mr Forbes would be a stunning upset.

New York is the biggest prize in the primary process so far, with 93 delegates on offer for the party's nominating convention in August. If Mr Dole snags them, his lead in numbers of delegates over Mr Forbes and his only other serious rival, Pat Buchanan, would make him well-nigh invincible. "I think we will be the state that puts Senator Dole over the top," the Governor of New York, George Pataki, said. Only California and Texas will send more delegates to the convention in San Diego.

Of the three candidates, only Mr Forbes was still in the Empire State yesterday, apparently glimpsing the miracle of an eleventh-hour breakthrough. A final daily tracking poll for the *New York Post* showed Mr Dole's lead cut from 48.4 per cent to 46 per cent, while Mr Forbes had jumped from 18.7 per cent to 24.2 per cent.

Mr Buchanan appeared to be losing ground in the state and registered only 13.6 per cent in the *New York Post* poll.

The race has been overshadowed by controversy created by the state party's attempts to preserve rules that made it almost impossible for any candidate other than Mr Dole to make on to the ballot sheets.

With help from the courts, Mr Forbes was able to qualify in all 31 of the state's congressional districts, while Mr Buchanan

THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS '96

was standing in only 23. State-wide, therefore, the primary amounted to a first head-to-head Dole-Forbes contest.

So confident was Mr Dole that he had left yesterday to campaign in Florida, which votes on Tuesday. In Miami, the senator joked: "I feel good about New York, except it snowed up there. If it snows here, we're in trouble."

Mr Forbes received a boost on Wednesday, when he was endorsed by Jack Kemp, a former pro-football star and Bush cabinet member. But Mr Kemp, whose main interest in Mr Forbes is his advocacy of a flat tax, may have jumped in too late. "It's like grabbing the helm of the *Titanic* after it's hit the ice," scoffed William Powers, the state party chairman.

Mr Forbes also poured money into the state in the closing hours of the campaign, with intensive advertising, including a 30-minute block of primetime on a New York City television station. Chastising Mr Dole for refusing to take part in recent television debates, Mr Forbes offered to pay for his plane fare to return to New York to debate with him on the half-hour show.

The magazine magnate was meanwhile due to stage a "victory party" in a Manhattan hotel yesterday evening.

The event, aides said, would mark his success in getting on the ballot across the state, even if the day's voting did not give him victory.

Mr Buchanan continued to defy party calls on him to retire from the race and help restore party unity. He promised supporters that he would "fight until Hell freezes over — and then fight on the ice".

Leading article, page 16

FBI relives Cold War in hunt for Red spies

Los Angeles — The FBI has wrapped up an advertising campaign that asked Vietnamese-Americans to help round up suspected Communist spies, writes Tim Carrawell.

Ads appearing last month in two of the largest Vietnamese-language newspapers in the country, and picked up by radio and television, sought help against the "proliferation of Vietnamese Communist intelligence". The FBI is now following up hundreds of calls received in response.

The US and Vietnam opened full diplomatic relations last year, but the agency says there has lately been a surge in espionage. In a curious throwback to the Vietnam War era, the newspaper notices asked new immigrants to help the US government "destroy the activities, threat, and intimidation... of the underground Communist spies." Economic espionage is the main target.

The Vietnamese-American community, estimated at about 1 million, has seen sharp splits between ardent anti-Communists who denounce Hanoi and those who welcome closer ties with their home country.

The San Francisco FBI spokesman, George Groltz, said the campaign was intended to encourage disgruntled Vietnamese spies to "come in from the cold". Mr Groltz said known Vietnamese spies had tried to obtain security clearances and access to hi-tech companies based in California.

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Rebels push thorn further into Yeltsin's side

PHIL REYES
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin's government was plunged into crisis yesterday after Chechen rebels spent a second day trying to grab back control of the Chechen capital, Grozny, in an effort to inflict maximum embarrassment on the Kremlin.

As his troops struggled to re-buff Chechen attacks across the city, Mr Yeltsin provided Russians with further reason to suspect that he has no workable solution to the conflict — despite his promise to find one

before the presidential election in three months' time.

The President, looking solemn, emerged from a meeting of his policy-making Security Council in Moscow with nothing more than a vague assurance that he was working on the framework of a blueprint for bringing "peace through stabilisation". He promised to unveil full details to the "entire world" by the month's end, a delay that seems certain to disappoint many Russians who have long been embittered by the loss of life in the 15-month war, and angered by the failure of the

Kremlin's hawks to fulfil an earlier boast that they could bring it to a quick end. His indecisiveness and apparent helplessness at the hands of what most regard as lawless terrorists will only do more damage to Mr Yeltsin's chances of returning to office.

The President's strongest political rival, the Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, who is well ahead in the polls, was quick to rub salt into the wound, warning that the war could become a "second Afghanistan" and pouring scorn on Mr Yeltsin for being unable to set

tle the conflict by peaceful means, always relying on force.

To widespread amazement, the President seemed out of touch with the unfolding dramas in Chechnya yesterday, prompting suspicions that his inner circle is withholding information from him — an allegation that also arose last month during Russia's disastrous bombardment of Pervomayskoye. Mr Yeltsin told reporters outside his Security Council meeting that the rebels had been driven out of Grozny when this was in fact far from the case.

Eyewitnesses said that the

Chechen forces had penetrated deep into the already wrecked city, seizing control of a police station and a hospital and taking prisoner 84 Russian construction workers. By yesterday evening, the rebels controlled a third of the city.

The Russian forces appear to have been caught out by the offensive which began at dawn on Wednesday after some 300 rebels rolled in on a suburban train which they had commandeered. Yesterday Russian Interior Ministry police (Omon) were reportedly driven back into their hide-outs because

they began to run out of ammunition around 11am. An official from the Moscow-backed Chechen government told the Interfax news agency that at 2pm — three hours after the fighting began — the Russian army was still not in action.

The Chechens — between 500 and 1,000, according to Russian estimates — are rumoured to be led by Shamil Basayev, the Chechen commander who led last year's mass hostage-taking in the southern Russian town of Budennovsk, an episode that was widely seen as a humiliation for Mr Yeltsin.

Last night there were reports that the Chechens had successfully sabotaged the city's heating plant, three water pumping stations, and an oil pipeline, and had installed snipers only 100 yards from the headquarters of the Moscow-installed Chechen government.

Water supplies were cut, and intense fighting was said to have begun around Grozny's television station. Figures for the number of dead are usually unreliable, but the Russians admitted that some 70 of their forces had been killed, and claimed that 130 rebels died.

For Mr Yeltsin yesterday's events are a realisation of a nightmare, as they undermine his efforts to convince a sceptical electorate that he can fix the Chechen crisis. They also suggest that the rebels — whom he has vowed to kill — are able to sabotage his political fortunes at will. Although they seem unlikely to win Grozny — Russian reinforcements were streaming in yesterday as virtually every Russian position was under fire — the Chechens are equally unlikely to cease to be a thorn in the Kremlin's side as the election approaches.

Austria budget deficit unites parties

ADRIAN RIDGE
Central Europe Correspondent

After a row lasting more than six months — and one election later — Austria's two main parties, the Social Democrats (SPÖ) and the conservative People's Party (ÖVP), are united in opposition to the government's budget deficit.

A relieved Franz Vranitzky, who remains chancellor, hailed the agreement between his Social Democrats (SPÖ) and the conservative People's Party (ÖVP) as a triumph for common sense and compromise. Wolfgang Schüssel, the ÖVP leader and deputy chancellor, described it as "good news for Austria".

At the centre of the new agreement is a tough package of austerity measures designed to cut 10 billion schillings (£6.5bn) from the country's spiralling budget deficit over the next two years.

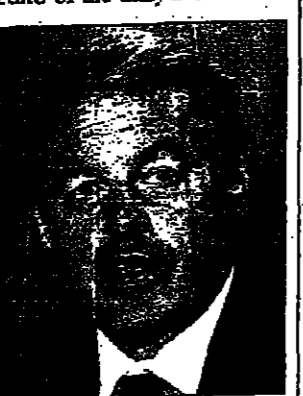
In a bid to show they mean business, the coalition partners said they planned to cut two ministerial posts and reduce the number of state secretaries.

It was a disagreement over how to reach the budget deficit that caused the break-up last autumn of the last SPÖ-ÖVP coalition after less than one year in office. Although the SPÖ emerged strengthened from the December election that followed, the new cost-cutting economic policy bears the firm imprint of the ÖVP, which even flirted with the idea of throwing in its lot with Jörg Haider's extreme-right Freedom Party to ensure its survival.

As part of the austerity package, designed to bring Austria into line with the Maastricht criteria for joining the single European currency, 10,000 civil service posts are to be axed by the end of next year, generous maternity leave payments are to be slashed and students up to the age of 27 will no longer be able to travel for free on public transport.

In a country that has got used to an astonishing degree of welfare cushioning, the prospect of the cuts has already provoked protest from trade unions, pensioners and students, thousands of whom this week teamed up with their university professors in declaring an indefinite strike.

Mr Vranitzky, however, has recognised that, with the opening of the Iron Curtain in 1989 and entry into the European Union last year, the days of job for life and early retirement were destined to come to an end. "We have no option but blood, sweat and tears," said Andriess Rohrer, political editor of the daily *Die Presse*.



Franz Vranitzky: Coalition a triumph for common sense

Turkey's top author sentenced for article on Kurds



Penned in: Mr Kemal (left), best known for his book *Memed, my hawk*, in court yesterday with his publisher, Erdal Oz

HUGH POPE
Istanbul

Like a wicked godmother cursing the new-born centre-right government that took power in Turkey yesterday, Istanbul's State Security Court handed down a 20-month jail sentence on Turkey's best-known writer, Yashar Kemal.

The three judges decided there was an incitement to racial hatred in his article "Black Clouds over Turkey", in which he condemned Turkish oppression of the Kurds. Mr Kemal's passionate article was published in a book called *Freedom of Expression in Turkey*, subsequently banned.

"I am being judged because I want the war to stop. I will fight until death for the end of this war [between the Turkish army and Kurdish guerrillas]," Mr Kemal said. "More than three and a half million people have been driven from their homes and are now searching for rubbish dumps for their food."

The sentence against Mr Kemal and the fine on his co-defendant and publisher, Erdal Oz, who was ordered to pay the equivalent of £38, were suspended as long as they did not repeat their "crime" within five years. Lawyers said both would appeal against the sentence but this was not the attitude taken by Mr Kemal. 72. As he left the courtroom, he shouted: "Jail me if you like. It is not you who sentence me. I condemn you."

The judges may have considered they were being lenient, deferring to Mr Kemal's international prestige, his 30

novels translated into many languages and sales of 5 million books in Turkey alone. He is Kurdish and writes in Turkish, seeing himself as a mix of the two.

Mesut Yilmaz, the new Prime Minister, who sought Mr Kemal's advice before the December election, told *Milliyet* newspaper his government would think about allowing Kurdish television and Kurdish education. Even the word Kurd was taboo less than a decade ago and a change in Turkish attitudes was shown by Mr Kemal's prosecutor yesterday, who acknowledged the Kurds "as a race but not as a nation". But when he said he believed the article was not criminal, that the book should be unbanned and Mr Kemal and Mr Oz acquitted, the judges would not relent.

The sentence is bound to stain the reputation of the new coalition government. Kurdish nationalists will also see little future hope in an unsurprising programme read out to parliament yesterday. Mr Yilmaz spoke in clichés of "separating the terrorists from the people". And the army is building its troop strength in the mainly Kurdish south-east for the traditional spring offensive.

The new Cabinet is packed with technocrats to run the economy but also includes former police chiefs associated with a mixed policy of military repression and economic promises. These helped depopulate the Kurdish rural south-east and restored order in towns but have failed to end the 11-year guerrilla insurgency.



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WHICH?

The Right Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn

Stanley Booth-Clibborn - Bishop of Manchester from 1979 to 1992 - was a controversial and energetic bishop of the Thatcher years.

His diocese had the largest group of run-down Urban Priority parishes and this impelled him to constant public pleas for a social order which would redress the balance in favour of the marginalised. In 1991 he published *Taxes - Burden or Blessing?*, which urged "a radical change in our attitudes towards what we do in common and how we pay for it". He was an Anglican rarity - a bishop who was known to belong to the Labour Party - whether speaking in a downtown pulpit in Salford or in the House of Lords.

This least pontifical of bishops came from the Booth family, which had founded the Salvation Army, and he married Anne Forrester, member of a family distinguished for service in the Church of Scotland. Again he was unusual among Anglican bishops in feeling at home in radical and reformed circles, both political and ecclesiastical.

But he was not a "party man". He was scrupulous in his policy of appointing conservatives and Catholics to posts in his diocese. His natural sympathies were with radical causes: inner-city parishes, support for the developing world, and the ordination of women as priests.

Through his wife, a deputy chairman of Christian Aid, he had wide international contacts. Brisk, hard-working, likeable, Booth-Clibborn was born in London, educated at Highgate School, and then spent five years' commissioned service in the Royal Air Force, including two years in India. At Oriel Col-

lege, Oxford, many of his friends were destined for politics but he decided to offer for ordination. After four years in cast-end parishes in Sheffield he served in Kenya for 11 years in ecumenical posts.

He was appointed Editor-in-Chief of East African Venture Newspapers, a project which was designed to draw together the Churches and the developing African leadership. I once heard him speaking in a shop-front church in Nairobi, challenging his African congregation to prepare for political struggles when independence came. When a worshipper rebuked him that this was politics, not religion, he insisted that God was calling the congregation to be responsible for their own nation, adding: "Politics is not a dirty business. Africans can leave to the British." He also advocated the freeing of Jomo Kenyatta from prison, basing this on his conviction that, despite the horrors of Mau Mau, Kenya would soon need Kenyatta as India had needed Gandhi. After independence, he had an honoured place in East Africa.

The Booth-Clibborns returned to inner-city parishes in Lincoln. Their unusual expertise was welcomed by the British Council of Churches, Christian Aid and Lincoln Theological College. Stanley was next appointed Vicar of the University Church, Great St Mary's, Cambridge. It was typical of his good-humour and modesty that he would tell against himself the story of Bishop John Robinson's letter on behalf of Trinity College Patronage Committee, which pressed him to accept with the words, "We are scraping the bottom of the barrel."

Booth-Clibborn was 55 when

appointed to the demanding diocese of Manchester. There were overwhelming problems such as huge Victorian churches for tiny congregations, underfunded church schools and a boundary which meant that large numbers of those who drew their wealth from the city, lived in and supported a neighbouring diocese. However he was determined to "get on with things". He liked and admired Manchester, and its civic aspects. He and Anne were endless to clergy and their families when they were in trouble, whether from vandalism, illness or a breakdown in family life.

Stanley Booth-Clibborn gave high profile and courageous leadership wherever he was, in Kenya, Cambridge or Manchester. Speaking about the ordination of women, he said: "Some people have interpreted episcopal leadership as meaning that the Bishop should not take strong stands on controversial issues, but I think that that path simply enfeebles episcopal leadership. People respect more the kind of leadership where it is quite clear where the bishop stands." This enabled him to agree, shortly after his appointment to Manchester, to be the first Moderator of the Movement for the Ordination of Women. His stature was recognised well beyond the diocese.

His way of working revealed his debt to his army background, both British and Salvation. He was more conservative in his faith than in his politics. Manchester felt that they had a bishop who resonated with much that was best in the community. A presurised vicar put it like this: "The Bishop says his prayers

and carries the burdens of his people." In place of the old complaint "The Church is not for the likes of us" there came the frequent comment "The Bishop is on our side".

Alan Webster

Stanley Booth-Clibborn's episcopate was devoted to the diocese with its serving clergy, writes Canon F. W. Dillistone. Never tiring in his relation to the needs and problems of each individual parish, he manifested a steadfast leadership which inspired those with whom he was in contact.

After London and Birmingham, Manchester stands out as the metropolis of the North. With its famous football teams, its important airport and its flourishing university, Manchester holds a world-wide reputation. Moreover, it has undoubtedly been the centre in the north of England for other religious enthusiasms - not only non-Anglican but also Jewish, Muslim and Far Eastern. It has had a long Anglican tradition, the diocese having been formed in the early 19th century. In consequence a bishop has to assume leadership within his own diocese as well as maintaining relations with the other religious bodies within his area. It was not surprising that William Temple was chosen more than 50 years ago to take charge of enterprises ranging from the great Conference on Politics, Economics and Citizenship to the stirring evangelistic efforts on the Blackpool Sands.

In philosophy, history and economics, Manchester became a stage from which distinguished scholars went on to Chairs in other universities; leading industrialists witnessed

the great change-over from the mills and factories to a much more diversified pattern (with the enormous influence of the growing radio and television industries, together with the long tradition of the *Manchester Guardian*), culminating in a pattern of communication today which is far more central in its general outreach.

Stanley Booth-Clibborn and his wife Anne went on steadily relating themselves to the many problems which a vast diocese brings. He did not forget missionary responsibilities and when time allowed found out conditions at first hand. He did not forget the wonderful heritage which was his and the way in which General Booth transformed the ranks of the down-and-outs everywhere. He did not hesitate to speak out when a public issue demonstrated rights and wrongs.

I well remember Stanley Booth-Clibborn's enthronement on a day full of snow and ice: he laboured thereafter amid all the demands of the diocese to set forward the cause of Christ in the teeming diocese of Manchester.

Stanley Eric Francis Booth-Clibborn, priest: born London 20 October 1924; ordained deacon 1952, priest 1953; Training Secretary, Christian Council of Kenya 1956-63; Editor-in-Chief, *East African Venture Newspaper* 1963-67; Leader, Lincoln City Centre Team Ministry 1967-70; Vicar, St Mary the Great, Cambridge 1970-79; Bishop of Manchester 1979-92; married 1958 Anne Forrester (two sons, two daughters); died Edinburgh 6 March 1996.

* Canon F. W. Dillistone died 5 October 1993



Booth-Clibborn: 'The Bishop says his prayers and carries the burdens of his people'

Simon Cadell

Strangers would still come up to Simon Cadell in the street and yell the catchphrase "Hi-de-Hi!". This was something he had become used to in the 15 years since the hit series *Hi-de-Hi!* was first shown on BBC television, believing it to be "part of the job". It was while playing the role of Jeffrey Fairbrother in the series, the scrawny, well-spoken entertainment manager of the fictitious Maple holiday camp at Clampton-on-Sea, that he first found fame.

But Cadell was as much at home in serious theatre as in television comedy. If on the screen he specialised in characters whose very fallibility made them appealing, on stage he was an accomplished actor who never did straight "improvisations", which he believed were dull; rather, he tried to give the audience a sense of a fully-rounded character.

Playing the part of Noel Coward in *Noël and Gerlie*, a show which was put together by Coward's godson, Sheridan Morley, and which opened at the Comedy Theatre in December 1989, Cadell said: "You have to take what you think of the man's personality as you perceive it, and use those things and lose the rest." Cadell was

himself witty, urbane and a bon vivour.

Born in 1950, Simon Cadell came from a family with a rich theatrical tradition spanning three generations. His father, John Cadell, was the son of the West End actress Jean Cadell and a distinguished actor's agent, while Simon's mother, Gillian, was the Principal of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. His sister Selina is also an actress.

As a boy in his teens at Bedales School, in Hampshire, Simon was purrpyish and chubby and disliked playing rugby. At the age of 16 he ran away because he could not stand the routine. This seemed to be a recurring theme throughout Cadell's career: he was always seeking new challenges and believed "for an actor, getting stale is the cardinal sin".

His first stage appearance was in 1967 with the National Youth Theatre in the original production of *Zigger Zagger* by Peter Tearson. He joined the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School the same year and got his first acting job in 1969.

Cadell's ability to make people laugh was, his fellow actor John Wells said, partly in his comic sense of timing and part-

ly being able to keep a straight face. His natural sense of irony led him to see parallels between many of the parts he played. "Fairbrother was an honest academic out of his depth," Hamlet was just another character out of his depth," he said.

In the tradition of Bob Hope or Jacques Tati, he subscribed to the belief that "it is the clown, the failure, the good-natured, averagely attractive man whom British women feel at home with as an entertainment figure."

Playing the part of Fairbrother in *Hi-de-Hi!* (which was screened from 1980 to 1983 and had an extended run of 35 episodes), Cadell believed he looked every inch the innocent abroad: his thinning hair brushed back and parted on the side, dressed conservatively in tweed jackets, checked shirts and ties, always managing to look awkward among his team of self-confident "yellow-coats", and wearing an expression of consternation and embarrassment. Consistently the anti-hero, he was the only member of the cast not to have any jokes written into his script. "It is the most difficult way to be funny," he said, "and that's why I get a kick out of it. I like to do difficult things and then move on."

It was on the set of *Hi-de-Hi!* that Cadell met his future wife Rebecca Croft, daughter of the show's producer, David Croft. *Life Without George* (which ran from 1987 to 1989), the television series which further popularised Cadell, was co-written by Penny Croft, his sister-in-law. He felt a certain empathy with his character: a sensitive, caring estate agent in his thirties, Cadell considered himself a "fairly old new man". He went on to play Dennis Duval, an egotistical womanising actor in an ITV comedy series, *Singles* (1991). "I enjoyed gently taking the mickey out of myself and every other actor I've met," he said.

In January 1993 he received an Olivier award for Best Comedy Performance, for playing the dual roles of Aunt Augusta and Henry Pulling in Giles Haverall's adaptation of Graham Greene's novel *Travels with My Aunt* (1992). He took as his model for Aunt Augusta

an elderly aunt of his own in Bournemouth. He winked his left arm, jutted his jaw, and his lips and fiddled with an invisible string of pearls, as he claimed, "I could be the pearls."

Privately, Cadell was a superb mimic, and could be both funny and moving. He shared wonderfully realistic impressions of John Gielgud, could also emulate Noel Coward's breathing and gawling while singing.

He was the voice of Blackberry in the film of *Whisper Down* (1978), the voice of the Old English Sheepdog in the long-running television advertisement for Dulux paint, and even worked on advising voice-overs for a baked bean and fresh gooseberries (these voice-overs, he said, owed him the luxury of turn-of-mind bad plays). A modest man, he had no idea of the extent of his own fame and all he would concede was that "it was nice to be working".

Simon Cadell was a self-confessed family man; he took his elder son, aged six, to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and let him stand centre-stage, where Cadell watched his reaction as the stage lights came up and the curtain was pulled back, no doubt to give his son a sense of the theatrical tradition he belonged to.

In January 1993, Cadell suffered a near-fatal heart attack after giving a recital with Anna Lumley at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, in London. The doctors singled out smoking as a contributory cause - alone stage Cadell smoked 80 cigarettes a day - but he was back at work playing in *Travels with My Aunt* four months after a triple by-pass operation. In September the same year, an ulcer was detected. Against doctors' expectations he completed work on a Screen Two film for BBC television in 1994. It was his ambition as an actor to top on improving: he vowed that he would play Hamlet again.

Alexandra Young

Simon John Cadell, actor: born London 19 July 1950; married 1986 Rebecca Croft (two sons); died London 6 March 1996.



Mamona Assasinas: four of the five Mamona - from left to right, Julio Rasec, Samuel Reoli, 'Dinho' Alves and Alberto Hiroto

Mamona Assasinas

The five members of Mamona Assasinas shot out of nowhere to become the Brazilian teen pop sensation of the decade. They perished spectacularly together in a plane crash, leaving only one record, and were mourned by the Brazilian public and media as extravagantly as Ayrton Senna, the last great popular hero to be buried in Brazil.

"My grandchildren were very sad," President Henrique Cardoso commented in his note of condolence, and the culture minister stated that Brazil had lost "a singular manifestation of irreverent humour". The entire group, with two pilots and two technical staff, died when their rented Lear jet hit a hilltop approaching São Paulo airport, on the way back from the last concert of a national tour, and the Brazilian media quickly noted strong ironic elements to the story.

For one thing, their record company had been planning to "disappear" the group for a few months to whet public appetite for a new album in the summer. For another, aeroplanes featured strongly in the Mamona's

mythology. The cheerfully naïve list of dedications on the sleeve of their hit album included, as well as the studio engineers who mixed the album in Los Angeles and the Mexican cleaner in their hotel, the inventor of the aeroplane, Alberto Santos-Dumont, for having made their first trip possible.

All five group members were in their twenties and grew up together in Guarulhos, the middle-class town next to São Paulo's airport. Pre-stardom, their lives appear to have been unremarkable. Alberto Hiroto, a guitarist, studied physics and took part in yo-yo competitions. Other members were office clerks or video store assistants. Alessandro "Dinho" Alves, the singer, chief lyricist and star personality of the band, worked as an assistant to a local town councillor. The group, initially called Utopia, was formed in 1989, and did the rounds of all the record companies unsuccessfully before EMI signed them as Mamona Assasinas ("Killer Tits") and in January 1995 released their first album. By the end of the year it had sold 1.7 million

copies, a remarkable feat in the recession-hit Brazilian music industry, and was a hit also in Argentina and Portugal, while Mamona Assasinas gripped Brazilian youth, with hordes of screaming pubescent followers besieging their hotels, and Dinho and his new young model fiancée a staple of the gossip press.

Only the most besotted of fans would impute high musical quality to the Mamona's record, and a common reaction among older Brazilians was scorn, turning on further exposure into amused fondness. The group's product was essentially straightforward rock, mixed with elements of what is often known as *brega* or tacky music, a lower-class country-like pop, of which the Mamona's cannily used the melodic catchiness while simultaneously parodying the redneck associations. Other key elements of the act were stage gear, a colourful jumble of shirts, T-shirts, pyjamas, convicts' outfits and silly hats - and, above all, headline-grabbing lyrics, slang-laden and *rasque* and delivered in an assortment of comic accents.

Their huge hit "Animal World" is a sort of dirty nursery rhyme, comparing the delights of humping different species of animal, while "Vira Vira", which succeeded in being temporarily banned from radio, tells the tale of one Maria who, invited to an orgy, comes home a week later minus one breast and "so shagged out she couldn't sit down".

A minor, but clear strand of the Mamona's work, visible in sharp little portraits of, for example, provincial social climbers hypnotised by shopping malls, was social satire, and it was this that impelled one Brazilian obituarist to say that the Mamona's slight oeuvre, in its own way, described the destiny of Brazil.

Phillip Sweeney

Alessandro Alves, singer: born 1972; died 2 March 1996. Alberto Hiroto, guitarist: born 1973; died 2 March 1996. Julio Rasec, keyboard player: born 1968; died 2 March 1996. Samuel Reoli, bass guitarist: born 1974; died 2 March 1996. Sergio Reoli, drummer: born 1972; died 2 March 1996.



Cadell, center left, as Fairbrother, with his fellow *Hi-de-Hi!* actors (from left) Su Pollard, Michael Knowles and Ruth Madoc

BIRTHS

CHURCHILL: On 1 March, to Sonia (nee Shields) and Paul, a beautiful baby girl, Francesca Rose, a sister for Kaia.

DEATHS

ALEXANDER: On 7 March 1996, Monica, died at home at Oaklington, Cambridge. Funeral service at Oaklington Parish Church on Wednesday 13 March at 2pm. No flowers please. All donations for Oaklington Church c/o F.W. Cook Funeral Service, 49 Church Street, Willingham, Cambridge.

SAMUEL: Philip Ellis Herbert, died 6 March 1996, aged 95. Funeral at Willesden Jewish Cemetery, Sunday 10 March, at 12 midday. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. Instead of flowers, donations may be sent to West London Service Unit, 259 Westbourne Park Road, London W61.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

WILLIAMS: A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Joyce Beverley

Births, Marriages & Deaths

Williams MBE MB JP (née Jewson) will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 13 April 1996 in St John's Parish Church, Church Row, Hampstead, London NW3. Enquiries to 0181-440 1065.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephone 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line (VAT extra). They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Maj-Gen Sir Christopher Airy, former private secretary to the Prince and Princess of Wales; 62 Mr David Austick, bookkeeper and former MP; 76 Mr Gyles Brandreth MP, journalist and broadcaster; 48 Sir Julian Bullard, former ambassador to West Germany; 68 Professor Sir Donald Campbell, anaesthetist and former president, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow; 66 Sir Anthony Caro, sculptor; 72 Miss Cyl Chastice, actress and dancer; 75 Sir James Connyn, former High Court judge; 75 Mr Phil Edmunds, cricketer; 45 Mr Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel Four Television; 53 Miss Eileen Harle, actress; 76 The Hon Douglas Hurd MP; 66 Mr Michael Ingham, interior designer; 76 Miss Ann Jenner, ballerina; 52 Mr Gary Numan, musician; 35 Miss Lynn Redgrave, actress; 58 Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi; 48 Miss Lynn Seymour, ballerina; 57;

Professor Stephen Smith, gynaecologist; 45 Professor Norman Stone, historian; 55 Mr Robert Tear, opera tenor; 57 Miss Claire Trevor, actress; 87 Mr John Ward MP; 71 Mr David Wilkie, Olympic swimmer; 42.

Anniversaries

Births John Forbergill, physician, 1712; William Roscoe, historian, 1753; Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr, judge, 1841; Kenneth Graham, author, 1859; Otto Hahn, physicist and chemist, 1878; Ted Dameron, jazz pianist, composer and arranger, 1965. Deaths King William III, 1702; Louis-Hector Berlioz, composer, 1869; Benno Adam, animal painter, 1892; Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, soldier and inventor, 1917; Sir Thomas Beecham BA, conductor, 1961; Richard Austen Butler, Baron Butler of Safidon Walden, statesman, 1982; Ted Dameron, jazz pianist, composer and arranger, 1965; Sir

William Walton, composer, 1983. On this day: Queen Anne acceded to the British throne, 1702; work began on the Amsterdam-North Sea Canal, 1865; Mahatma Gandhi started a civil disobedience campaign in India, 1930; a coal strike began in Britain, 1944; the first London production of the musical *Kiss Me, Kate* was presented, 1945; 3,500 US marines landed in South Vietnam, 1965; the Nelson Column in Dublin was destroyed by an IRA bomb, 1966. Today is the Feast Day of St Dunbas, St Felix of Dunwich, St Humphrey or Humild, St John of God, St Julian of Toledo, Saints Philomena, Carthage, St Senan of Scattery, St Stephen of Obazine and St Veron.

Lectures

National Gallery: Norman Coady, "Innocent Abroad (St Titian, *Salomé with the Head of Saint John the Baptist*)," 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Catherine Wilson, "Rococo Design in Britain," 2.30pm.

Receptions

English-Speaking Union: Mr Robin Fleming, Chairman of Robert Fleming Holdings Ltd, Mrs Valerie Mitchell, Director-General, English-Speaking Union, and Mrs Richard Chilton, Chairman of the ESU Chilton Art History Scholarship, received the guests at a reception held yesterday evening at Fleming's, London EC2, in aid of the Scholarship.

Worshipful Company of Shipwrights

The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights awarded certificates and bursaries for training voyages on

board TS *Royalist* to Sea Cadets from the London Area units of the Sea Cadet Corps at a Court held yesterday evening at Ironmongers' Hall, London EC2. Mr Ole S. Eversdahl, Prime Warden, presided at a dinner held afterwards. Sir Jeremy Morse was the principal guest and speaker.

Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children

Mrs Diane Yeo, Chief Executive of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, received the guests at a dinner and musical evening held yesterday evening at the Cavalry and Guards Club, London W1. The Amalfi String Quartet and the Radley Clerks provided the music. Among those present were: Col Thomas Hall, Chairman, Cavalry and Guards Club, and Mrs Hall; Sir Andrew Hogg Smith; Sir Ralph Dodge, Baroness Gonsky; Mr C.E. Knoll-Dewar; Mr Neil Bruce Copp.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visit Cambridge. The Duke of York, President, presents the Royal Aero Club Annual Awards at St James's Palace. The Princess Royal, Imogene, visits the Worldship Company of Woolmer, visits Amstelveen Campus, Amsterdam, Coltharbour Mill, Uffculme, Gloucestershire; and at Farnon, Seize - the National Disabled and Rubella Association; attends Seize Midlands Unit Anniversary Spring Dinner and Ball at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Irish Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

Appointments

Mr Tim Richardson, to be Ambassador to Rome.
Mr Ray Meale, to be a Commissioner on the Board of Customs and Excise.

سید اسامی

At war over the law

An uncompromising Home Secretary and a blunt-speaking Lord Chief Justice are at loggerheads. Heather Mills explains why

There is now open warfare between the judges and the Government over the criminal justice system.

The judiciary, once signed-up members of the Establishment, have accused John Major's government of introducing a flood of hasty, ill-considered and contradictory legislation. Ministers are in the dock, charged with subjecting the law to "arbitrary change and the vagaries of fashion", and worse, impeding justice. If that is not enough, the judges have told the ministers flatly: their proposals will not work.

Judges stand accused by ministers of giving too many lenient sentences, thwarting their so-called fight against crime, and interfering in policy.

These are uncharted and dangerous waters. Never before in recent history have judges so damagingly and publicly voiced their views outside the courtroom - forcing ministers on to the defensive.

So why are they doing it now? The reasons are threefold. First, they are now able to speak out publicly, since rules maintaining their silence were relaxed in 1987. Second, they are headed by a Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, who is prepared to speak out so bluntly on their behalf. (Lord Lane, his predecessor, was known to have seethed silently.)

Third, and fundamentally, judges - at least the "new" intake of younger, more liberal-minded judges - guard their independence

from government jealously. And it is the constant attachment of yet more fetters on their discretion to administer justice that has most upset them.

What has brought matters to a head are the latest proposals by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to impose minimum sentences for repeat violence and sex offenders, and drugs dealers. At one time politicians frequently exercised their right to set parameters for judges' sentencing. But these powers were abolished around the turn of

The British Constitution: a missing document

Whereas other nations spell out the fundamental principles upon which their laws are founded, the British Constitution is unwritten.

British common law consists of long-established custom. Statutory law is set by Parliament. Judges establish law through precedent. No single document gathers all these together, and no single group can lay claim to autonomously controlling the law-making process.

Convention places the long-established principle of separation of powers at the heart of the constitution: the executive, legislature and judiciary may not exert excessive influence on each other.

Some members of the judiciary argue that politicians, most chiefly the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, are now undermining this central principle.

the century. Since then, sentencing has been left to judges - with the notable exception of the mandatory life sentence to replace the death penalty.

"Never before has a government introduced politics into sentencing," says one judicial insider. "Judges have long been unhappy at the crumbling justice system they see around them, but with one or two notable exceptions have largely kept quiet. Over this fundamental issue, they feel they have no option but to speak out."

The judges' desire to go public has coin-

cided with their changing role as law-makers in our unwritten constitution. The "new" judiciary are perceived as far more liberal, increasingly called upon - and unafraid - to protect the citizen against the state, as witnessed by the increasing use of judicial review to check ministers' powers. Howard happens to be the minister who has most often fallen foul of the courts.

The consequences of this war for society are serious. We need faith in the lawmakers - government and judges - who set the rules that bind our social fabric, protect the individual and guarantee order.

The Lord Chief Justice has warned that what judges see as a rash of crude legislation (as many Criminal Justice Acts in the past six years as in the previous 60) is endangering public confidence in the system. And since the stream of notorious miscarriages of justice in the late

1980s, confidence is already diminished. Nothing could be undermining public confidence more than having the judiciary and executive pulling in different directions.

The only hope is that Howard's new sentencing proposals do not get on to the statute book before an election. He has yet to publish his White Paper and he may run out of parliamentary time. This would let him off two hooks: the continuing and fundamental row over judges' discretion in sentencing, and an explosion in the already bursting prison population that he would not be able to contain.

Howard's proposals

Michael Howard took up the Home Office brief in May 1993, dubbed the most "right-wing" Home Secretary for 30 years. Encouraged by Labour's shift to a tougher stance on law and order, he has been anxious to pursue a "prison works" policy, introducing measures that have seen the prison population rise by more than 10,000, to a record level of 53,357.

Howard shares the same legal background as Lord Taylor, once having been a solicitor's clerk, but as Home Secretary he has taken a far more hard-line stance than any other minister.

The main areas in which the two men differ are:

Proposals for tougher minimum sentences. Howard maintains that the aim is to protect the public from persistent and dangerous criminals. He says that violent and sex offenders rarely get the maximum sentence of life and are released without supervision, even though they may pose a threat to the public.

Mandatory life sentences for murder. Howard maintains that, without a death penalty for murder, public condemnation of this "uniquely heinous" crime can only be reflected in an unique sentence: the mandatory life term. This argument is weakened, judges say, by his plans for mandatory life sentences for other crimes.

Too much legislation. Howard has been accused of fulfilling his wide-ranging promises to the Tory party faithful in 1993 to crack down on crime and criminals. He has been pursuing this through a range of legislation

ever since. He maintains that his top priority is to protect the public, and makes no apologies for the changes he says are necessary to achieve this.

Sentencing philosophy. Part of those changes involves a swift U-turn to reverse the policies of his Tory predecessors, which sought to take petty offenders out of jail but which he saw as "soft on crime".

Right of silence. One of the most controversial moves was the abolition of the centuries-old right of a defendant to remain silent. Jurors now can infer guilt from defendants' silence.

Revealing previous convictions. The fact that many defendants - sometimes those accused of rape - have been acquitted when their history might suggest a pattern of offending has led Howard to review the ban on judges knowing of defendants' previous convictions.

Any trial. The collapse of a series of complex fraud trials has led to calls for the right to jury trial to be abolished in some cases and replaced by judges sitting with an expert panel.

Prisons. Howard makes no apologies for pursuing a criminal justice policy that has seen an explosion in the prison population. He argues that the rise in prison numbers has led to a fall in recorded crime.

Honesty in sentencing. Howard proposes in a forthcoming White Paper to introduce "honesty in sentencing", making prisoners serve nearly the whole of their sentence, rather than having long periods on remission.

Taylor's criticisms

Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, is the head of the Court of Appeal, and the country's most senior judge. He was appointed by the Queen in 1992, on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor, who took "confidential soundings" among other senior judges, and speaks on their behalf.

As his recent attacks on the Government have shown, he pulls no punches. He rose swiftly through the legal ranks, is highly regarded for his incisive mind and independence. He is very influential in the House of Lords, and presents a powerful enemy for Howard. He can only be fired if both Houses of Parliament agree.

His chief areas of disagreement with the Home Secretary are:

Current proposals for tougher minimum sentences. Lord Taylor is gravely opposed to a planned White Paper which will see mandatory life sentences for repeat rapists and still minimum terms for burglars and drugs dealers. He claims they will lead to injustice - because the same sentence will apply in all circumstances. They will clog up the courts by removing incentives to plead guilty. They might also make violent offenders, knowing they face life sentences, murder their victims.

Mandatory life sentence for murder. Lord Taylor believes it should be abolished so that judges could distinguish between the battered wife who kills her brutal husband and a mass murderer.

Too much legislation. Lord Taylor feels a torrent of hasty legislation is undermining public confidence, and is having to be amended and

reformed through Parliament and the courts.

Sentencing philosophy. In the past four years sentencing policy has swung from one extreme to the other. The 1991 Criminal Justice Act declared that prison was an expensive way of making bad people worse and sought to divert all non-serious offenders. The 1993 and 1994 Acts have pursued a "prison works" theme. Lord Taylor wants consistency.

Right to silence. Lord Taylor insisted that Howard's removal of this centuries-old right should be watered down.

Jury trial. The Lord Chief Justice sees jury trials as the cornerstone of our criminal justice system.

Revealing previous convictions. Lord Taylor remains firmly opposed to telling juries about a defendant's criminal record because it would "give a dog a bad name", he says.

Prisons. Lord Taylor does not believe a longer time inside will deter habitual criminals. "What deters them is the likelihood of being caught, which at the moment is small."

Honesty in sentencing. Lord Taylor supports the move. He has also stood behind the Government on restricting the right to silence (even though he diluted its effects), limiting the amount of evidence to be disclosed to the defence, and changes to the law governing corroboration.

Saatchi gets its dates mixed up

I hate to be a stirrer, but I have a feeling bad could roll over this one. An unbelievable lack of communication between the producers of Granada's dating game show *God's Gift* and the ad agency Saatchi & Saatchi has had most unfortunate repercussions both for the Army and for the Government, which reiterated succinctly and controversially this week that gays may not, in any circumstances, join the armed forces.

It seems the MoD reckoned without an unexpected negative PR effect stemming from this week's episode of *God's G*. On Wednesday evening, the programme went out as usual - the show's directly staff format consists of five young men who compete both athletically and intellectually in front of a studio audience of women, who vote for one of them to become "God's Gift". But it was there that a difference: the silence was all men.

No problem with that - the show's producers were merely experimenting with a one-off gay episode. But nobody had thought to tell Saatchi & Saatchi, which schedules its adverts for Army recruitment during the programme. Understandably, members of the gay community who chanced to be watching asked over their beer at such blatant insensitivity. A spokesperson for the gay lobby Stonehill commented: "It is as mighty odd in the week that the government has said we can't have gays in the armed forces because they can't guarantee their safety."

But when I rang Saatchi & Saatchi's, however, to inform them of their bad timing, staff had no idea that there had been a "gay special". "I think," came eventually from a spokesman, "that I'd better not comment."

Salad days at Live TV

Now I know why the, er, expansive tri-umvirate at the head of Live TV,

dubbed by their employees Kelvin "Cuddly" MacKenzie, Nick "Fit" Ferrarri and "Big" Bill Ridley, recently introduced a slimming show, *Weight Go*. Yesterday I spotted Messrs Ferrarri and Ridley absorbed in conversation at the low-calorie food section in Canary Wharf's Boots. After much consultation - it was clearly a new experience for them - they bought diet pop, low-calorie yoghurt and shapers sandwiches before heading back rather glumly to their

Crèche course

In my bedside reading, I have stumbled across something extraordinary. West-

minster's crèche lobby, which believes that its fruitless campaign for a baby room is 25 years old, is misinformed. As far back as 1949 there was a request for a crèche in Westminster's eight acres of space and it came from none other than the late Labour MP Tom Driberg.

In a 1949 edition of the now-defunct lifestyle magazine *John Bull*, Driberg wrote: "There is no reason why special accommodation should not be found, in the vast Palace of Westminster, not only for women MPs but for their infant offspring. There is plenty of room for a crèche, or a nursery - later on, perhaps, even for a kindergarten which might teach the ABC of politics."

Given Driberg's unorthodox character - he was a promiscuous homosexual and Soviet spy - this is perhaps not the kind of endorsement that Commons crèche campaigners are actively seeking. But when I called Gary Keat, a researcher who is one of its most stalwart defenders, he was delighted. "We welcome support from any quarter. You don't have to be a parent to appreciate the civilising influence of children."

Chain reaction

How pleasant to find that the Internet is following the traditions of real mail. A colleague received an e-mail yesterday which began solemnly: "This message has been sent to you for good luck - Yes, God help us, chain mail has hit the Net. My advice to all other 'surfers', if we are to purge the system of such intrusion, is to obey only one of the instructions in this banal missive: 'This message must leave your hands in 96 hours.' It took me much less time than that to press 'Delete'."

Eagle Eye

DIARY



Parliamentary intervention in the supermarket
As part of the 1995-96 Finance Bill, the Government has introduced a new clause into the Finance Bill, which will allow the Treasury to intervene in the supermarket industry. This is a significant move, as it gives the government the power to regulate the industry in a way that it has not done before. The clause is aimed at preventing the kind of speculative trading that has been seen in the supermarket industry in recent years. It is a move that has been welcomed by some, but also criticised by others who see it as an overreach of government power.

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	£5,000	14.9%	£104.96	£2,779.28
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The wrong way to fight crime

Crime is one of the most important social issues in Britain today. Fear of violence, alongside anger at unsolved burglaries and theft, are undermining public confidence that the Government, the judiciary, the police and the prison service have got the problem under control.

Yesterday's row between the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, and Michael Howard over sentencing can only compound that disillusionment. This battle looks like buck-passing: the Home Secretary blames the judges for being too soft on criminals, while Lord Taylor has accused the Home Secretary of endlessly changing the law on sentencing, to ill-effect and with scant regard for justice.

Yet neither figure offers a workable blueprint for cutting crime. We are, whatever the outcome of this week's debate, stuck with a system that does not detect many criminals and which fails to punish them in a way that prevents most from reoffending. In short, the conflict between Lord Taylor and Mr Howard is largely irrelevant to the concerns of most of us.

The key issue of contention is Mr Howard's plan to introduce mandatory life sentences for repeat rapists and other violent criminals, along with tough minimum terms for persistent burglars and drug dealers. On Wednesday night, Lord Taylor rightly criticised the proposals on practical rather than constitutional grounds. Mandatory sentences reduce the discretion of judges to make the punishment fit the criminal. They mean an offender is unable to cut his sentence by entering an early guilty plea. More defendants will fight charges to the bitter end, further clogging up the courts.

A mandatory life sentence for repeat

rapists may persuade some that they might as well kill the victim, the only witness to their crime, since a murder will not increase their sentence. The last, and perhaps most devastating, criticism by the Lord Chief Justice is that tougher sentences do not cut crime in general. Better detection, rather than harsher sentences, is the answer, he says.

It is refreshing to hear judges joining the policy debate about how to tackle crime. But, as Lord Taylor accepts, they acknowledge Parliament's right to decide the law. The Lord Chief Justice's comments should not be dismissed as whingeing from the judge's trade union leader. Mr Howard should take the objections into consideration before publishing his White Paper on criminal justice. Tougher mandatory prison sentences may appeal to public opinion, but if they are ineffective, or indeed make crime worse, they are an expensive indulgence.

The Home Secretary should also think carefully before he weighs in with yet further reforms of the criminal justice system, which has, as Lord Taylor says, been overburdened with legislative initiatives. Overhasty reforms – notably those in the early Nineties that made sentencing more lenient – have had to be reversed. The judges and the Home Secretary must do more than scuffle if they are genuinely to address public concern about crime. They must think up new ways of dealing with offenders. Innovative punishment in the community, shaming people into changing their behaviour, might be effective. Until Mr Howard and his judicial colleagues tell us how they can cut recidivism, rows about sentencing will be dismissed as a distraction from the real issues.

A no-win situation for Senator Dole

The grimly predictable was followed by the unpredictably grim. Now it is back to the grimly predictable. The US presidential primary campaign, having taken a detour through some scary territory, has bumped back on to its pundit-approved rails. The election proper (still eight months away) will be between President Bill Clinton and Senator Robert Dole.

But Mr Dole's shaky performance in the early primaries, and the strange gods invoked by the rabble-rousing Pat Buchanan, have left the entire Republican strategy for 1996 in tatters. The game was to paint the gay-loving, gun-hating, womanising, draft-dodging Bill Clinton as "out of the mainstream", now it is the Republicans who find themselves trying to scramble back on to the centre ground.

Mr Dole faces two great problems and one great unknown. The first problem is how to co-opt Mr Buchanan's vitality, and his blue-collar support, without swallowing the poison of his extremism. Mr Dole needs the grassroots organising power of the Republican right to get out the vote for him in November. Contrary to the received view, US elections are not decided on television alone; you have to get those couch potatoes into the polling booths.

A decisive moment will be the Republican convention in San Diego in August. Mr Buchanan and his scores of delegates will have to be given their due if they are to play on the same team in the autumn. But Mr Dole cannot allow them to turn the convention, as they did in 1992, into

a prayer-meeting for fundamentalist right-wing intolerance.

The second great problem facing Mr Dole is his choice of running-mate. He might sensibly choose, say, General Colin Powell, who is, like him, a centrist, Washington insider. But such a choice would be bitterly contested on the right of the party (not just for racist reasons, though, to be sure, race would be a part of it).

Bob Dole is a cautious man. Since he is an old-fashioned (and just plain old) Midwestern Senate leader, he will go for a young, Southern, modern conservative type with no Washington experience. This will lose him no votes but gain him very few.

The other unknown is Ross Perot. If he enters the race as a third force, he will siphon off part of the anti-Clinton vote and probably hand the President a second term. Will the Texan billionaire run?

Almost certainly. At this early stage in the proceedings it is hard to see the President – now 12 points ahead in the polls – being turned out of office. But Mr Clinton's entire public life has been a big dipper. If he is up today, nothing is more certain than that he will be down tomorrow. The economy, Whitewater, the US mission to Bosnia remain giant hostages to fortune.

In other words, Bill Clinton can still lose it: it is difficult to see Bob Dole winning it. Even in his moment of triumph after eight primary wins on Tuesday night, he offered no answer to the question that stumped Edward Kennedy in 1980: "Why do you want to be president?"

ROSLIN INSTITUTE EDINBURGH



'What are the implications of cloning sheep, doctor?'



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Arts A-levels not a soft option for the indolent

Sir: It is sickening to see those in authority continuing to pull up the ladder and deny to those who are starting today those benefits that they themselves were blessed with ("A-level exams will be made harder to pass", 6 March).

Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, Sir Ron Dearing and others should remember how easy things were for them compared with today's students. Reasonable grants, cheap accommodation, no student loans scheme or threats of payment for higher education, good job prospects and far lower entry qualifications – you only needed five O-levels to study law in the early 1960s.

Universities, when they select students, are perfectly aware of

today's standards in A-levels and set entry qualifications accordingly. Making some subjects even more difficult to pass is pointless. It is yet another cheap but cosmetic alteration to our education system.

My daughter has just passed four arts subjects at A-level and I can confirm that the past two years have not been the period of indolence that some of the more reactionary members of the establishment might imagine.

C J A COLEMAN
Polegate, Sussex

The present English A-level, far from an easy option, is among the most intellectually stimulating and challenging subjects. "Interest fires achievement" – perhaps this explains the high grades scored in English A-level examinations.

S E FINLAY
Head Girl,
Howell's School,
Llandaff

Sir: Indeed, "How do you judge English literature against physics?"

It would be interesting to know the nature of the research which has shown that from the range of subjects on offer at A-level "English, business studies, home economics, design and

technology and communication studies [are] the easiest". In the proposals to "toughen" all examinations except maths and science the agenda is not so hidden.

If too many students are lured into the study of English and English Literature at A-level because of false perceptions, at least as English teachers we can hope that the rigours of the subject will hone their critical and analytical skills so that they become sharp enough to dissect edu-politicians from the truth.

ROSEMARY OLIVER
Head of English,
Surbiton High School,
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey

Keep the peace process alive despite Hamas

Sir: As an active supporter for many years of the Palestinian people in their struggle for justice and self-determination, I was appalled by the horrific carnage wreaked in Israel over the past week by the suicide bombers of Hamas.

Despite my unreserved condemnation of violent acts such as these, however, I feel that it is not simply unfair but highly dangerous to respond by punishing all Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the vast majority of whom are adamantly opposed to such tactics. Sealing off these territories causes dire economic hardship. The threat of renewed Israeli military activity inside Palestinian areas is also potentially devastating, not least for the peace process.

To target the entire Palestinian population is as unreasonable as punishing the Israeli people for the actions of the murderer Baruch Goldstein, who gunned down 30 Palestinians in cold blood in 1994. Rather than reactions of repression and antagonism, it is imperative that the peace process is advanced with increasing urgency. Only then will the extremists and the utterly deplorable acts of militants on both sides become marginalised.

RICHARD BURDEN MP
(Birmingham
Northfield, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: The assertion by Hamas that they will end their bombing campaign if the Israelis stop tracking their members should be ridiculed and ignored. It is clear to all involved that Hamas are a group of fanatics committed to wrecking the peace process. They will not stop their unjustified and unprovoked violence until the peace process is halted and thus the only viable option open to Yasser Arafat and Shimon Peres is to unite against Hamas in order to stamp out the threat which they pose.

MEHDI HASAN
(aged 16)
Harrow, Middlesex

Sir: Suicide bombers are portrayed as terrorists but they are actually devout young men who believe, of respected authority, that death will transport them instantly to paradise where they will find, amid fountain-cooled gardens, their martyr's reward.

After such religious education classes we must be thankful that suicide attacks are not common. Appeals to the better feelings of the faithful are counterproductive given the better feelings that they have been brought up to have.

DR RICHARD DAWKINS
Oxford

Sir: Israel once again plans to resort to its old failed "iron fist" policy to contain the Palestinians.

It should not be acceptable in a civilised society to turn a blind eye to the violence of Jewish settlers but harshly punish similar acts of resistance by Muslim and Christian Palestinians with collective punishment and expulsions. The nullahs have had far less influence in fuelling resistance by Hamas than Israel with its repression and denial of equal rights.

HAMEED MOOLLA
Nailsea,
Avon

Catching the fish quota hoppers

Sir: In all the hullabaloo over the European Court's fishing ruling very little has been said about what could be done right now to stop the quota-hoppers.

Boats flying a UK flag of convenience have a choice. Either they must land half their catch in Britain, or they must visit one of our ports at least four times every six months. Why offer the choice? Make it compulsory to do both, and you would change the economics of quota-hopping. The change would not eliminate the practice but would make many trips uneconomic. It could be made at no cost and with no fear of falling foul of Euro-law – it concerns licence conditions, not legislation.

ROBIN TEVERSON MEP
(Cornwall & West Plymouth,
Lib Dem)

Callington, Cornwall
The writer is a member of the European Parliament Fisheries Committee.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

What the police can, and cannot, do to fight crime

Sir: Peter Waddington's argument ("Finding a real job for Bobby", 1 March) that, as an instrument of crime-fighting, policing is largely an irrelevance relies on throw-away comments which trivialise the work of the police.

The demands of today's world preclude the "aimless wandering around" of patrols. In my own area, patrols are deployed in accordance with a planned and costed response to local problems, and results are evaluated in terms of the

reduction in crime and disorder. In detecting offenders, it is true that the police are not the main players. The value of co-operation from the public cannot be overestimated, and it depends so much on close contact with the community, developing mutual trust to overcome fear of reprisals and a belief that "the police can't do anything anyway".

When people ask the police to intervene in a situation, it is often because there is no one else to deal with it; it may be a dispute which poses little or no threat to

public order – but yes, the uniform represents authority. The service is changing to meet new challenges: changing in appearance, too, as the necessity to introduce personal protective equipment gradually renders the traditional uniform obsolete. It is worth considering whether tomorrow's new look patrols will appear less approachable to the public.

Chief Inspector
PAUL D DONNELLY
Knowsley South Area
Merseyside Police

Jail employers for workplace deaths

Sir: The Law Commission proposal to create a new offence of "corporate killing" ("Demand to get tough on firms that kill", 6 March) will do very little to prevent the 400 deaths a year in British workplaces.

The penalties suggested – unlimited fines and remedial action – already exist under the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act. All the Law Commission is proposing is a new name, and a potentially more complicated procedure. The examples they cite – Piper Alpha, King's Cross and the Herald of Free

Enterprise – were not at the time covered by the 1974 Act (which has halved fatalities in British workplaces). Cross-channel ferries still are not.

The TUC believes that further progress will only be achieved with an effective deterrent. The prospect of a jail sentence would convince negligent employers of the seriousness of their crimes.

JOHN MONKS
General Secretary
TUC
Congress House
London WC1

How to outlaw cowboy builders

Sir: If the experience of my own very excellent builder is anything to go by, many property owners only have themselves to blame for becoming the victims of cowboys ("Warning shot fired at cowboy builders", 5 March). Time and again he loses work because too many people are not prepared to pay a reasonable price for a first-class job. They go for a cheap quote and get what they pay for.

I think they are unable to recognise that those highly skilled in manual work are just as entitled to expect premium payment for their skills as those who work with the pen.

NORMAN GODFREY
London NW3

Fashion affront

Sir: Your photograph (2 March) from the London Fashion Week seemed a sad reflection on our society. Christians will be journeying through Lent towards Good Friday and the model's mask depicting the crucified Christ seems an affront to the season.

PATRICIA FRIEL
East Twickenham,
Middlesex

The New York gal and the Shropshire lad

Somebody said to me the other day that the reason Jane Austen was so popular in New York at the moment was not that people there found her nostalgic or quaint or anything, but that all the things Jane Austen's characters were so worried about were all the things that people in New York are getting worried about right now. Making the right marriage, meeting the right people, getting the right money, making the right move at the right time...

This may be true. And if it is true, you can feel the twitch of alarm among Austen-lovers already. Fancy their Jane being taken away from them by a transatlantic gang! Bad enough having her hijacked by television, but having her colonised by the Americans as well...

Things like this are always happening in literature, with reputations going up and down, in and out of fashion, up in one place and down in another. Here's another example of the Jane Austen bandwagon doing a slight detour:

"Jane Austen is a lady whose genius, compact of humour and keen observation, entitles her to a high place in English letters. But there has sprung up a Cult concerning Jane. The Snobs, I fear,



MILES KINGSTON

have got her: the pale horror-dogs who yelp and mander over Proust and Pirandello are hugging Jane to their bosoms and treating her least novels as if they were a Byzantine codex."

This was written in 1927 by DB Wyndham Lewis, and seems to be a cry of alarm at the thought of the Bloomsbury mob claiming Jane Austen as one of theirs, or at least at the thought of the literary taking her out of the realm of the much-read into the much-discussed.

She seems to have survived the treatment pretty well, as well as she is surviving the dual assault at the moment by television and Emma Thompson, and Wyndham Lewis need not have worried.

Not that he did worry. Perusing a collection of pieces written in the Twenties, I find that DB Wyndham Lewis was much more obsessed

with another writer who has also recently turned up in the anniversary news: AE Housman.

I am not sure what Housman's reputation is today – quite high with the Shropshire Tourist Board, I would imagine, and fairly quiet elsewhere – but it must have been pretty big in the Twenties; and this riled DB Wyndham Lewis considerably, as he found Housman's Shropshire stuff too gloomy for words.

He catches Housman's tone quite well when he suggests that if Housman had written "I'm To Be Queen of the May!" instead of Tenyson, it would have come out like this:

Oh Mother, wake and call me.
It is the First of May!
Whatever may befall me
I simply must be gay.
Though clowns lie the clay.

On Wenlock Edge the plovers
Depress me with their wails,
The lads who were my lovers
Are hanged in Shrewsbury Gaol,
It makes me rather pale.

If I should catch pneumonia
Through walking in the dew
I leave my pet begonia
To little Sister Sue,
My mulching broom, too.

"There is always," says one of DB Wyndham Lewis's characters, "something rather Housmannish happening in Shropshire. It is not always so with Sussex, which is owned in equal parts by Mr Belloc, Mr Kipling and Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith. It is not always so with Mr Hardy's Wessex. But with Shropshire, yes. The civilian population is always being hanged there, for example. Yet a Crimean veteran died of old age in Ludlow over the weekend. I observe: it is a little difficult to realise that he, too, was a Shropshire lad, for they generally get a bullet in the heart soon after enlistment..."

Nor, come to think of it, for those who are unaware of him, have I left myself space to say anything about DB Wyndham Lewis, one of the best but most forgotten humorists of the century. He was not Wyndham Lewis, who was someone much more serious. He was the very first Beachcomber – JB Morton came after him – and he later adopted the pen-name Timothy Shy, under which pseudonym, unlikely though it seems, he came to write a novel-length St Trinian's story for Ronald Searle's drawings...

More of him some other time, I hope.



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

City gambles on Ladbroke bid

No one will be too worried by yesterday's pretty dismal figures from Ladbroke, the Hilton hotels to Vernons pools to betting shops group. The real investment interest in the company lies in guessing if a bid is on the way, who will make it and what they will be prepared to pay.

If it doesn't materialise, attention will focus on whether the company can stitch up a deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation, which owns the US hotels. Under new boss Steve Bollenbach the American business is known to be keen to forge at the very least a world-wide marketing link with the international arm it now regrets selling off.

Chief executive Peter George has done a reasonable job in clearing up the mess left by his predecessors, selling Texas Homecare to Sainsbury and winding down the ill-conceived property portfolio, but many of the problems he faces at Ladbroke are out of his control.

Profits for the year to December of £121.3m were bang in line with expectations, £7.2m below 1994's pre-exceptional number and, as forecast, dented by the impact of the National Lottery on the betting side. Earnings per share of 7.46p, again before exceptional items, only just covered an unchanged dividend of 6p.

Last year really was a game of two halves for Ladbroke. The Hilton hotels business moved nicely ahead from £126.8m to £150.2m, with occupancy edging ahead from 66.8 per cent to 69 per cent, driven by the buoyant London market. It was a nice cushion, but not enough to make up for a disastrous 12 months for gaming and betting.

There were problems across the division, with retail betting and Vernons suffering from the introduction of scratch cards, credit betting (accounts for overseas high-rollers) slumping after a strong 1994 and profits in America failing to keep up with rising sales. Overall the division saw profits collapse from £97.7m to £58.1m.

Elsewhere in the group, profits from the property portfolio were sharply reduced from £32m to £23m as buildings are gradually disposed of. That unhappy adventure should be history within a couple of years.

So what is Ladbroke really worth? Break-up valuations of more than 200p have been touted which provides some support if you believe a bid from, say, Bass or Whitbread is a possibility. If not, analysts believe some sort of marketing deal with Hilton Corp

underpins the current share price, even if on a prospective price/earnings ratio of about 20 the shares, down 0.5p at 183.5p, are expensive on fundamental measures. Hold on for the inevitable developments.

Arjo bears scars of price war

The paper industry is notoriously volatile, subject to wild swings in paper prices and dramatic shifts in demand. Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French group, failed to escape those gyrations last year and has spent much of the last six months warning on profits.

Arjo's problem is that it has been faced with a slump in demand as customers used up stocks while they waited for the soaring price of paper to fall. The first half was decent enough but demand then deteriorated as de-stocking continued.

Yesterday's full-year figures bore the battle scars. Pre-exceptional profits fell by just 10 per cent to £207m. But half of that was wiped out by charges of

£120m relating to last November's restructuring of the European operations. The difficulties have continued in the early months of this year. Sales volumes are still weak and prices are coming under increased pressure. Though the worst of the de-stocking appears to be over in Europe, the slowing of some economies such as France, Germany and North America is likely to delay an upturn.

On the bright side, the pulp price is finally beginning to fall which will help Arjo's margins. Pulp prices reached more than \$1000 per tonne last autumn and the price has been falling steadily to \$600. It is not clear how much further it has to fall but at the bottom of the last cycle pulp prices went as low as \$400.

The good news for Arjo is that though it has been ravaged by the cycle it looks reasonably well placed for an upturn. It has a good geographic spread and has been expanding into the "added value" coated-paper market via the acquisition of the Newton Falls mill in the US last year. This will balance the group's interest in the mature but still cash generative carbonless paper market.

With analysts forecasting profits of

around £185m this year the shares are on a forward rating of 14. They have, however, already enjoyed a significant bounce since the end of last year when they fell to 160p. Up 8p to 210p yesterday they are high enough.

Overseas boost for Sun Alliance

Sun Alliance closed a better-than-expected insurance reporting season yesterday on a positive note, with 1995 operating profits up 59 per cent at £480m. The market was particularly cheered by the 43 per cent increase in net asset value to 413p, which helped fund a dividend increase at the top end of the range to 17.25p.

Even though Sun Alliance turned an underwriting profit in its core British market, despite increased competition, the real bright spot in these results was the steady growth of overseas business, which now accounts for over 50 per cent of premium income compared with 23 per cent in 1988. Underwriting results in Europe and Australia out-paced expectations.

In 1995, Sun Alliance's life assurance premiums were almost flat at £1.26bn, while shareholders' profits increased to £94m from £72m. The company believes the worst of the problems facing the industry in the UK are over, reflected in a year-on-year rise in both single and new annual premiums so far in 1996, after a good final quarter in 1995. On the general insurance side, premiums increased to £3.6bn from £3.4bn, and the underwriting result showed a much improved loss of £31m compared with £127m last time.

What sets Sun Alliance apart from other composites is its determined build-up of a sizeable war chest. The solvency margin was up to 82 per cent at the end of last year. The group is on the prowl in the Far East and Europe, possibly the US, and would not turn up its nose at a life mutual here at home.

Given its lack of premium income relative to its rivals, and the prospective loss of business from former partners the Halifax in the UK and Chubb in the US, pressure is growing to make an acquisition. There is certainly value in the shares, with a prospective yield of 5.8 per cent, but with an acquisition looming, and the UK underwriting cycle heading downwards, don't expect fireworks.

John Willcock CITY DIARY

Does Marketing Malaise rot your underpants?

"It's time to shrug off the British Marketing Malaise," said Sir Michael Perry, chairman of Unilever, yesterday in his keynote speech at the City University Business School. Can this be the same Unilever that presided over the so-called "rotting Y-fronts" saga, when a rival company showed that Unilever's Persil Power could cause damage to clothing?

Sir Michael said that whatever Britain's role would be by the millennium, it would be determined by marketing. Perhaps a little market testing would be in order as well.

Mrs Beeton - management guru, The London Business School is championing the 19th century authoress, who

wrote arguably the most influential cookbook cum housekeeping guide ever, as a sage for today.

Robin Wensley, professor of strategic management and marketing at Warwick Business School, wrote in the spring edition of the LBS Strategy Review that Isabella Beeton's book throws light "on two modern management debates: the relationship between strategic and operations management; and order/bureaucracy as against adaptability/chaos."

And there I was thinking it was all about getting up early and keeping the servants in order. Isabella had completed her 1,112-page book in the 1860s aged just 25, and died

just four years later, which certainly teaches a lesson about Getting On With It.

Princess Diana is to head a charity funded by people donating 10 per cent of their windfalls from building society conversions, if freelance butler Michael Hardern has his way. Mr Hardern wrote to the Princess's press representative Jane Atkinson last weekend about the scheme, which he reckons could raise around £1.6m for good causes.

He has already formed a lobby group, Members of Conversion, which is urging all remaining societies to convert and shower their members with one-off payments. Currently Mr Hardern is pursuing a scheme to get five sympathisers on to the board of Nationwide Building Society, which remains resolutely mutual.

Any charity scheme would have to receive the money automatically on conversion. Mr Hardern stressed, "Once people get their sticky hands on the money they tend not to want to hand it back."

The world of shooting collided with that of oil at the Turf Club in London's Carlton House Terrace last night. Britain's oil moguls like shooting together since they all have stakes in each other's oil rigs and Scottish grouse moors are conveniently close to the North Sea oil fields.

The first ever Annual Shooters' Supper was attended by 34 moguls, and amid the talk of buckshot they made a number of awards. Colin Moynihan, the former sports and energy minister, was voted "most boring guest". "Dresser of the year" was John Kennedy, chief executive of Dresser Industries, which builds oil rigs. Russell Harvey, head of Lasso North Sea, won "Shot of the year" and Graham Hearn, chairman of Enterprise Oil, was voted "host of the year".



Ostrich meat. Yum yum. Many now view it as preferable to BSE-ridden beef. The booming world of ostrich breeding was thrown into disarray this week, however, when the Advertising Standards Authority upheld a complaint against the Pinstripe Farming Company, Sandbach, Cheshire. Pinstripe had claimed in an ad for investment in ostrich farming that "Demand will exceed supply for the next 7-10 years." The ASA found that pinstripe could not substantiate the claim.

Step forward the Ostrich Farming Corporation, Europe's biggest breeder with 2,000 birds in Belgium. On Monday the Corporation urged the British Domesticated Ostrich Association to tighten up its code of ethics to prevent such abuses in the future. "We felt it was time to sort out the industry. A lot of farms don't understand what you can and can't do in advertising," said Robin Higgins of the Corporation. Quite right. The industry can't keep its head in the sand...

Cookson keeps up pace of recovery with 50% rise

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

The dramatic recovery at the circuit board to ceramics group Cookson continued in 1995 as strong sales growth and margin improvement sent profits and cash flow soaring.

Richard Oster, chief executive, said: "Global expansion, a clear focus on new product development and customer service have enabled the group to grow its major businesses despite the increasingly competitive environment."

Pre-tax profits jumped 50 per cent to £161m (£121m) after a 15 per cent rise in sales to £1.8bn was compounded by a widening in operating margin from 9 per cent to 11.1 per cent.

Mr Oster said a 15 per cent return on sales was achievable to put Cookson on a par with diversified rivals such as BTR, TI and Williams.

Last year's improved result means profits have soared from under £20m in 1991, when the return on sales was under 7 per cent.

That rise meant the company was able to pay a final dividend 18 per cent higher at 4.5p to give a full-year payout 14 per cent better at 8p. Cookson's shares, which have tripled in value over the past four years, closed 7p lower at 318p as the market paused for breath after the past year's strong out-performance.

The biggest surprise to analysts was a big swing in Cook-

son's cash flow, which saw it generate £50m compared with last year's £17m absorption. That put Cookson on track to meet its target of generating £500m over the next four years from debt and internal cash flow for investment in its four main businesses.

Mr Oster said the key to Cookson's success over the past few years was a constant drive to create new products. He estimated that a quarter of the company's profits in five years' time would come from products not yet in existence.

Electronics, which makes circuit boards and is one of Cookson's fastest-growing markets, saw profits rise 52 per cent to £80m as demand from computer, mobile phone and car

manufacturers remained high. The company estimates that the electronic content of cars will double over the next 10 years, maintaining the division's momentum.

In ceramics, the refractories business continued to grow faster than the steel industry it mainly serves by taking market share.

The ceramics supplies business, a joint venture with Johnson Matthey, also made good progress in its first year of trading.

Thanks to the group's cash generation and a 1993 rights issue a year ago at 175p the balance sheet remained strong, with gearing at the year end down to 6 per cent from 36 per cent 12 months earlier.

Rolls-Royce bullish as profits take off

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine and industrial power group, reported a sharp rise in profits yesterday as the company forecast that the airline industry was at last picking up after five years of recession.

After reporting a 74 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £175m for last year, chairman Sir Ralph Robins said that the company was seeing growth in its important markets and had captured a greater share of the commercial engine market.

There has been speculation that R-R was selling its big Trent engine at below cost in order to win lucrative spare sales, but Sir Ralph denied this.

R-R said it was closing the gap on rival US engine-makers General Electric and Pratt & Whitney. R-R captured nearly

30 per cent of all commercial aircraft sales last year, the highest market share it has achieved.

"We have had five years of very difficult circumstances when we have had to pursue some very difficult policies. But we are beginning to get the pay off now and we are starting to see market growth," he said.

The profits included a £30m contribution from US aircraft-engines company, Allison, which R-R bought early last year. There was an exceptional gain from asset sales of £32m.

Since last year, R-R has steadily won engine orders and seen a rise in its share price, up 5p yesterday to 215p. Group sales were £5.6bn, up from £3.16bn.

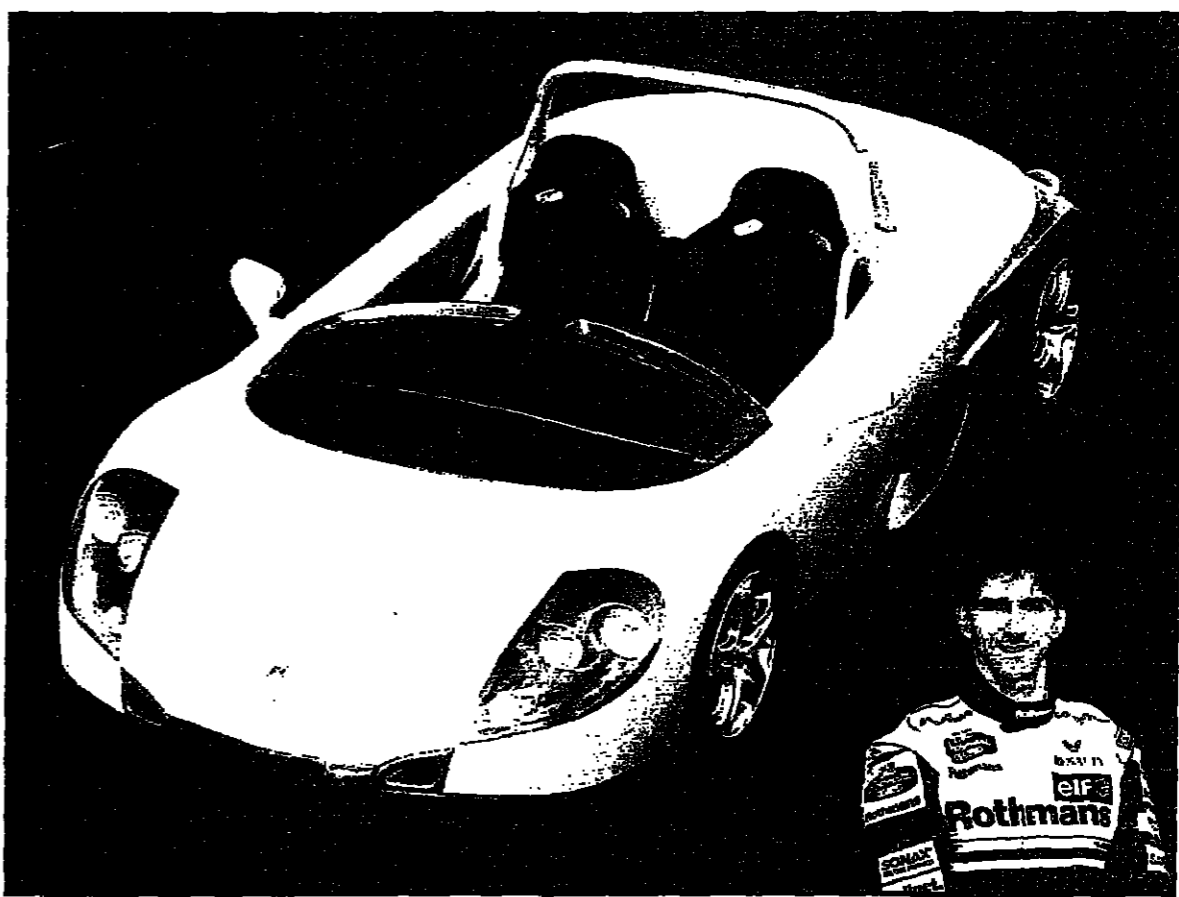
The company warned it faces a downturn in military projects but said the civil aviation industry was showing signs of recovery.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Arjo Wiggins (F)	3,570m (2,920m)	72.0m (217m)	2.3p (17.9p)	7.5p (7.5p)
BAH (F)	3,300m (3,090m)	322m (200m)	53.9p (29.3p)	24.0p (21.5p)
IMI (F)	1,320m (1,150m)	87.2m (50.3m)	16.4p (9p)	11.5p (10.5p)
Ladbroke (F)	3,950m (4,410m)	95.4m (230m)	51.4p (26.47p)	9p (9p)
More O'Ferrall (F)	87.3m (73.8m)	15.0m (5.5m)	29.9p (18.9p)	14p (13.2p)
Rolls-Royce (F)	3,210m (2,160m)	175m (101m)	10.5p (6.6p)	5p (5p)
Sun Alliance (F)	- (1)	546m (677m)	48.4p (30.9p)	17.25p (15.75p)
Zeneca (F)	4,900m (4,480m)	619m (550m)	35.6p (46.8p)	31p (28.5p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

Win Damon Hill's Renault Spider with THE INDEPENDENT



We would like to give you the chance to win a unique open-topped sports car that has had one careful owner - Damon Hill. Damon, hotly tipped to take this year's Grand Prix crown from Michael Schumacher, will road test our prize Renault Sport Spider, a magnificent mid-engine two seater that was the hit of the Geneva Motor Show. The Spider, which will retail for around £25,000, has a lightweight aluminium chassis and a 150 bhp 2 litre Clio Williams engine which gives a top speed of 130 mph. Though the Spider's high-tech interior and racy, squat lines show its race track pedigree, this is a car that was designed for everyday use. Safety is a prime feature, as is driver comfort and noise reduction. Acceleration, road-holding, cornering and

breaking are all that you would expect from a designer thoroughbred. Production of the Spider will be strictly limited, and your prize car will carry the Damon Hill seal of approval.

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To be in with a chance of winning our prize Renault Sport Spider you must collect five differently numbered tokens from the fourteen we are printing in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Today we are printing Token 13. Token 14, the final token, will be printed in tomorrow's Independent with the entry form. It must be completed and sent in with your tokens.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
As previously published.

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THE INDEPENDENT

TECHNOLOGY TODAY.

WHO KNOWS WHAT THE
HELL'S GOING ON?

THE OLIVER & CLAIRE STRIP

Big risks and a dubious deal for taxpayers in the nuclear sell-off

As investors are deluged over the coming months with information to persuade them to buy into the £2.6bn privatisation of British Energy this summer, a little historical perspective would not go amiss.

Reading the impressive financial forecasts this week by BZW, the Government's City advisers, it is hard to remember what a laughing stock the nuclear generating and construction industry has made of itself over much of the last three decades.

Look at the record of Dungeness B, one of the power stations investors are being asked to buy. Though admittedly the worst of the bunch, it has a claim to be the biggest industrial disaster in British history.

Important components of the reactor did not fit when they were brought on site, so the steel lining had to be rebuilt at huge expense. The contractor went bust, the whole sorry project took nearly 20 years to finish – six or seven years in the normal – after the station started operating in 1983 with problems kept cropping up for many years. As recently as last year fresh problems with welds in the pipework forced a shutdown and lengthy repairs, making the company's boast a few months before that the reactor station had at last been tamed appear decidedly premature.

INDUSTRY VIEW PETER RODGERS

The other six nuclear power stations of the same gas-cooled generation have a mixed record. Astonishingly, this small batch of power stations was built to four different designs and, as a group, this has made them even more of a chronic burden on the power industry's technical resources over the years than if they had been all of a kind.

It was almost certainly the blunders of the advanced gas-cooled reactor programme, and not the environmental lobby or the scares resulting from foreign nuclear accidents, that nearly wiped out the British nuclear

engineering industry. These AGR stations make up the bulk of what is being offered for sale.

History is bunk, the Department of Trade and Industry and its advisers might well say. How very unfair to raise problems that were long ago solved and rub them in the faces of the excellent engineers who are now running the plants up to record levels of output.

British Energy and its component parts, Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, have spent five hard years since the rest of the generating industry

was privatised making their power stations more efficient and preparing them for sale.

Nuclear Electric has also built a £2.5bn American-designed pressurised water reactor at Sizewell B in Suffolk on time and to cost. The industry is very different now.

This is certainly true. But the chequered history is worth repeating as a useful reminder that predictions by engineers about long-term nuclear performance ought to be taken with a large pinch of salt, especially when they are critical to the valuation of the company.

It so happens that one of the key assumptions in BZW's forecasts is that the performance of British Energy's power stations will continue rising – to a level that has never been seen before.

The brokers assume for their forecasts that nuclear station

output as a percentage of maximum theoretical output over a year will rise from the most recent figure of 74.5 per cent to a load factor of 82.5 per cent.

The difference between an 80 per cent and an 85 per cent load factor – a mere 2.5 per cent – represents a 4700m variation in the valuation of the company. It would not take many more defective welds for the whole arithmetic to be shot to pieces.

This is, of course, a conventional enough problem, which investors face every time they put money into an engineering project. It has little to do with better-known fears about nuclear power, such as the long-term costs of decommissioning reactors over periods of up to 15 years, radiation scares or the threat of an accident.

Indeed BZW's achievement in its number-crunching is that it may have cleared away what a year or two ago appeared the biggest financial obstacle of all to a privatisation, the long-term cost of station decommissioning and waste treatment.

British Energy will have an unusual balance sheet, dominated by frighteningly huge provisions of £1.4bn for its long-term liabilities.

For sophisticated investors the accounting magic of the discount rate has shrunk the cost of these risks – emotive politi-



Power failure: Dungeness B, part of this nuclear complex in Kent, has a claim to be Britain's worst industrial disaster. It took 20 years to build instead of six or seven.

cal and environmental issues that they are – to quite acceptable proportions.

Even big changes in liabilities expected many years ahead – for example an unexpected doubling in British Energy's share of the cost of a new waste disposal facility – will have a relatively small present cost. The same applies to variations in decommissioning costs or the impact of tighter safety and environmental standards.

This arithmetic protects cash flow over the next decade and therefore the all-important ability to pay a high and rising stream of dividends, without which the City will not buy shares in a utility.

According to BZW, all the main financial risks for investors in fact arise from rather ordinary events. Early closure of Dungeness B because of technical or safety problems

would, for example, knock £500m off the £2.6bn-£2.8bn valuation put on the company.

The biggest threat of all, says BZW, would be from a collapse in the price at which electricity is traded in the pool. If it fell from 2.4p a kilowatt hour to 2p, £750m would disappear from the valuation.

The risks are not all one way. If the electricity price rose to 2.7p there would be an £850m boost to the value of British Energy, and there would be a bonus of £700m if there were a five-year extension of the life of the AGRs.

Conventional though they are, the scale of the risks is likely to make British Energy hard to sell at a premium price, even assuming the Government agrees the big debt write-offs the company has demanded.

The company has yet to spell out its real objectives, other than managing the decline of an in-

dustrial, now it has abandoned plans to build another nuclear station. And the lure for investors of efficiency gains is modest compared with earlier privatisations, because so much has been done to improve the company over the last five years.

In fact, if BZW's financial projections are right, they could make a good case for keeping British Energy in the public sector for the moment, rather than selling it cheaply in a hurry ahead of the election.

British Energy is expected to switch from being a high absorber of funds to generating a total of £2bn of cash over the next five years – money which, if the company were kept in state hands, would count towards the public sector borrowing requirement. This makes a sale price of only £2.6bn seem on the face of it a rather poor deal for the taxpayer.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US Dollar	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Germany	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
France	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Italy	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Japan	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
ECU	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Belgium	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Denmark	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Netherlands	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Ireland	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Norway	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Sweden	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Switzerland	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Australia	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Hong Kong	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Malaysia	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
New Zealand	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Saudi Arabia	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288
Singapore	1.5288	1.5288	1.5288

Interest Rates

UK	US	Japan
3 month	3 month	3 month
6 month	6 month	6 month
1 year	1 year	1 year
2 year	2 year	2 year
3 year	3 year	3 year
5 year	5 year	5 year
10 year	10 year	10 year
15 year	15 year	15 year
20 year	20 year	20 year
25 year	25 year	25 year
30 year	30 year	30 year
35 year	35 year	35 year
40 year	40 year	40 year
45 year	45 year	45 year
50 year	50 year	50 year
55 year	55 year	55 year
60 year	60 year	60 year
65 year	65 year	65 year
70 year	70 year	70 year
75 year	75 year	75 year
80 year	80 year	80 year
85 year	85 year	85 year
90 year	90 year	90 year
95 year	95 year	95 year
100 year	100 year	100 year

Bond Yields

Country	Yield
UK	7.00%
US	7.00%
Japan	7.00%
Germany	7.00%
France	7.00%
Italy	7.00%
Spain	7.00%
Sweden	7.00%
Switzerland	7.00%
Australia	7.00%
Hong Kong	7.00%
Malaysia	7.00%
New Zealand	7.00%
Saudi Arabia	7.00%
Singapore	7.00%

Money Market Rates

Rate	Rate
3 month	7.00%
6 month	7.00%
1 year	7.00%
2 year	7.00%
3 year	7.00%
5 year	7.00%
10 year	7.00%
15 year	7.00%
20 year	7.00%
25 year	7.00%
30 year	7.00%
35 year	7.00%
40 year	7.00%
45 year	7.00%
50 year	7.00%
55 year	7.00%
60 year	7.00%
65 year	7.00%
70 year	7.00%
75 year	7.00%
80 year	7.00%
85 year	7.00%
90 year	7.00%
95 year	7.00%
100 year	7.00%

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open
Long Call	100	100	100
Long Put	100	100	100
Short Call	100	100	100
Short Put	100	100	100
Long Call	100	100	100
Long Put	100	100	100
Short Call	100	100	100
Short Put	100	100	100
Long Call	100	100	100
Long Put	100	100	100
Short Call	100	100	100
Short Put	100	100	100

Industrial Metals

Commodity	Price
Aluminum	100
Copper	100
Gold	100
Iron	100
Nickel	100
Palladium	100
Platinum	100
Silver	100
Tin	100
Zinc	100

Precious Metals

Commodity	Price
Gold	100
Silver	100
Palladium	100
Platinum	100
Rhodium	100
Rosetta	100
Silver	100
Tin	100
Zinc	100

Agricultural

Commodity	Price
Wheat	100
Corn	100
Soybeans	100
Canola	100
Wheat	100
Corn	100
Soybeans	100
Canola	100
Wheat	100
Corn	100
Soybeans	100
Canola	100

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot
US Dollar	1.5288
Germany	1.5288
France	1.5288
Italy	1.5288
Japan	1.5288
ECU	1.5288
Belgium	1.5288
Denmark	1.5288
Netherlands	1.5288
Ireland	1.5288
Norway	1.5288
Sweden	1.5288
Switzerland	1.5288
Australia	1.5288
Hong Kong	1.5288
Malaysia	1.5288
New Zealand	1.5288
Saudi Arabia	1.5288
Singapore	1.5288

Tourist Rates

Country	Rate
US Dollar	1.5288
Germany	1.5288
France	1.5288
Italy	1.5288
Japan	1.5288
ECU	1.5288
Belgium	1.5288
Denmark	1.5288
Netherlands	1.5288
Ireland	1.5288
Norway	1.5288
Sweden	1.5288
Switzerland	1.5288
Australia	1.5288
Hong Kong	1.5288
Malaysia	1.5288
New Zealand	1.5288
Saudi Arabia	1.5288
Singapore	1.5288

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price
US Dollar	1.5288
Germany	1.5288
France	1.5288
Italy	1.5288
Japan	1.5288
ECU	1.5288
Belgium	1.5288
Denmark	1.5288
Netherlands	1.5288
Ireland	1.5288
Norway	1.5288
Sweden	1.5288
Switzerland	1.5288
Australia	1.5288
Hong Kong	1.5288
Malaysia	1.5288
New Zealand	1.5288
Saudi Arabia	1.5288
Singapore	1.5288

Commodity Indices

Index	Value
US Dollar	1.5288
Germany	1.5288
France	1.5288
Italy	1.5288
Japan	1.5288
ECU	1.5288
Belgium	1.5288
Denmark	1.5288
Netherlands	1.5288
Ireland	1.5288
Norway	1.5288
Sweden	1.5288
Switzerland	1.5288
Australia	1.5288
Hong Kong	1.5288
Malaysia	1.5288
New Zealand	1.5288
Saudi Arabia	1.5288
Singapore	1.5288

Energy

Energy	Price
US Dollar	1.5288
Germany	1.5288
France	1.5288
Italy	1.5288
Japan	1.5288
ECU	1.5288
Belgium	1.5288
Denmark	1.5288
Netherlands	1.5288
Ireland	1.5288
Norway	1.5288
Sweden	1.5288
Switzerland	1.5288
Australia	1.5288
Hong Kong	1.5288
Malaysia	1.5288
New Zealand	1.5288
Saudi Arabia	1.5288
Singapore	1.5288

Other Softs

Commodity	Price
Wheat	100
Corn	100
Soybeans	100
Canola	100
Wheat	100
Corn	100
Soybeans	100
Canola	100
Wheat	100
Corn	100
Soybeans	100
Canola	100

Stock

Stock	Price
US Dollar	1.5288
Germany	1.5288
France	1.5288
Italy	1.5288
Japan	1.5288
ECU	1.5288
Belgium	1.5288
Denmark	1.5288
Netherlands	1.5288
Ireland	1.5288
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Sweden	1.5288
Switzerland	1.5288
Australia	1.5288
Hong Kong	1.5288
Malaysia	1.5288
New Zealand	1.5288
Saudi Arabia	1.5288
Singapore	1.5288

Stock

Stock	Price
US Dollar	1.5288
Germany	1.5288
France	1.5288
Italy	1.5288
Japan	1.5288
ECU	1.5288
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Ireland	1.5288
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Sweden	1.5288
Switzerland	1.5288
Australia	1.5288
Hong Kong	1.5288
Malaysia	1.5288
New Zealand	1.5288
Saudi Arabia	1.5288
Singapore	1.5288

Fergus Sutherland with Imperial Call's rider, Connor O'Dwyer Photograph: Caroline Norris

be on Mysliv," he said. A jockey announcement is also expected for Squire Silk, whose regular rider Paul Carberry is suspended.

JAMES BARCLAY

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[illegible]

3.50 WHEATLEY PACK.
(21.455 lb) 53.80

S MARES STANDARD OPEN NH
2nd CLASS H \$1,550 M 47 L10yds

1 01-2 **ANDROMACH** (23) J M Jeph
2 **AUTUMN FLAME** O Brennan
3

1 George 5 11 2. Mr P Scott (7)
 2 (27N) K Blakey 5 11 2. A Thornton (1)
 3 **OLDENBURG** (44) 4 10 5. R Guest
 4 (23) Miss A Embress 5 11 2. J Ryan
 5 **FLYBIRD** (13) M Macaulay 6 11 2 S Wynn
 6 **YVAMOND** (1) Jurgens 4 10 8. S Fox (6)
 7 (45N) K Cancho 4 10 8. J Gallagher
 8 **WISSE** D Thom 4 10 8. S McNeil
 9 **MAIT** Mrs A Fong 4 10 8. J Loddler
 10 **CHART** A Crow 4 10 8. A Manners (7)
 11 **BORAN** 4 10 8. D Thomas (7)
 12 **WIP** Ben 4 10 8. W Worthington
 13 **ROYD** James 4 10 8. R MacCarthy (7)
 14 **RED** Positive Cate 14 10 8. D Bridgwater
 15 **WALZ** (22) H Colvergen 4 10 8. Sir P Glaze

16 declared.
 17-22. **Aschbach**, 4-1 Temperance **Stager**, 10-
 18 years, 15-1 Golden **Fillgus**, 20-1 others

Osborne is unlikely to select his Champion Hurdle mount, Mysliv or Collier Bay, until Monday morning, when the declarations for Tuesday's big race are made. His agent Gavin

pressure from Jim Old (the trainer of Collier Bay) or Charles Egerton (trains Mysliv) and will leave it until he knows what the weather will do."

1

E (SSB) K Bailey 5 11 2 A Thornton
 (12) Miss A Embrosos 5 11 2 J Ryan
 (13) Miss N Macaulay 6 11 2 S Wynne
 FRYMAID J Jenkins 4 10 8 S Fox (6)
 (45) M Carracho 4 10 8 J Gallagher
 GRIFFIN Thom 4 10 8 S McNeil
 HART Mrs A King 4 10 8 J Lockier
 (10) A Crow 4 10 8 A Manners (7)

N P Bean 4-10 8.....W Worthington
 Lloyd-Jones 2-10 8.....R McCarthy (7)
 BRE RISING (23) M Pipe 4-10 8.....D Bridgester
 WALTZ (23) H Colledge 4-10 8.....Mr P Close
 - 18 declared -
 7-2 Anabranck, 4-1 Temperature Rising, 10-
 10-10 Golden Fillies, 20-1 others

sport

The battle of the peacocks

If politics is war by other means, what on earth does that make cricket? India play Pakistan at Bangalore tomorrow at a time when gunfire rattles across the border in disputed Kashmir most days, a time when both countries, like peacocks flashing their tail feathers, are tensing their nuclear muscles. Neither side would have chosen this stage as their battleground: the organisers in particular were praying for a tumultuous India-Pakistan finale. But here we are. All those conspiracy theorists who presumed that the wily subcontinent would orchestrate a grand climax to the competition will have to bite their tongues for a while.

One thing is clear, though. Many of the millions of cricket fans in India and Pakistan will be happy to lose the tournament if they can just win this one match. The fraught relations between the two nations, ever since they were wrenched apart by partition 49 years ago, mean that the play really isn't the thing. Stand by, this weekend, for a barrage of military

When India and Pakistan meet in the World Cup tomorrow it will be about more than just cricket. Robert Winder reports

epithets: here comes Waqar Younis booming in like a missile launcher; there goes Tendulkar again, hitting it like a shell, or Inzamam on the rampage. Count how many times the word "gladiatorial" comes up.

The players are pally enough. Two years ago, in Sharjah, they walked out holding hands like children on a nature trail, in an ostentatious gesture of togetherness. And at the beginning of this tournament they had no trouble forming a combined team to play Sri Lanka. But no one else can ignore the historic animosity that charges these matches. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since partition released 10 million vengeful refugees into the subcontinent. The Pakistanis, who were vociferously scornful of Australia's decision to avoid Sri Lanka, have twice cancelled tours to India (in 1992 and 1993) because of the threat from Hindu supremacists. Only this week, there were calls for

the Pakistan players to be barred from entering the country.

But they are not ducking out of this one, and the security presence in Bangalore is, not surprisingly, huge: machine guns, sniffer dogs, the works. There have also been threats to dig up the pitch - no easy task, on these hard-baked bowler's graveyards. The response has been, well, typical. When tickets went on sale on Sunday 60,000 people beat a path to the stadium; many of them camped out for the night. In three hours 45,000 tickets were snapped up, and there were scuffles when the crowd sensed that large blocks of seats were being withheld for last-minute VIPs.

It is not as if this match was a regular event. Pakistan have not played in India for nine years (since 1987, when they won a Test match in, as it happens, Bangalore). India even boycotted the annual one-day

three consecutive low decisions. The *Times of India* modestly referred to the match as one between "Cricketing Gods" and concluded, with a nod to India's two recent defeats: "may the worse side win".

This first quarter-final of the World Cup is also - as if it mattered - the start of the tournament proper, the first match which both sides have to win. In a nice twist to the clean religious divide between the teams, India's captain - Mohammed Azharuddin - is a Muslim. He even got into trouble once with his own mullahs for attaching his own sacred first name to a Reebok shoe. There really could not be more at stake. Who said cricket was boring?

On paper, Pakistan might just have the edge (India's game plan so far has been for the other side to drop catches, and it has been only partly successful). But this match is on grass, and Indian grass at that, so it would be churlish to predict an out-

come. Pakistan's batting - with Aamir Sohail, Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamam-ul-Haq in exotic form - has been forceful and consistent enough to recover the ground lost in the field. Some of this is merely a matter of planning.

So far, Wasim Akram has placed his fielders with a striking lack of wit, and this in games where the pressure was off. If he persists with the no-one-on-the-leg-side field he seems to favour, India's batsmen will just smack their lips and tuck in. India will depend heavily, as always, on Anil Kumble, one of three Bangalore players in the home side (Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad also hail from the Garden City).

But probably the decisive element will be the crowd. When Waqar Younis ran in to bowl in Karachi against South Africa and England, 30,000 fans whacked empty water bottles against the seat in front: it sounded like a hurricane alert. Tomorrow, there will be jeers. The roar when Tendulkar walks to the crease, on the other hand, will probably shake the windows in Lahore.



Michael Atherton, the England captain, warms up in the nets at Karachi for tomorrow's World Cup quarter-final against Sri Lanka. Photograph: Ross Kinnard/Alisport

Sri Lankans rise above the conflict

Derek Pringle on why England should not underestimate their World Cup opponents

For a small strife-torn island off the southern tip of India, Sri Lanka certainly packs an almighty punch on the cricket field. Apart from setting new benchmarks for 50-over scores, they have proved to be sparkling role models for the smaller teams like Kenya and the Netherlands, showing them exactly what standards can be achieved in a very short space of time.

Minnows themselves when the first World Cup was played in 1975, they have since become the most talked-about team in the tournament. Not bad for a country that only had "Test" status bestowed upon them by the International Cricket Council in 1981. Yet, despite their perceived callowness, Sri Lanka have been thinking big for some time, recently approaching Ian Botham to become their coach.

When he declined, they asked Allan Border but, when he too proved unavailable, they settled for another Australian, the Victorian Test player, Dave Whatmore.

Colombo-born but raised in Australia, Whatmore began to hone both their cricket and their competitive edge. It is an appointment that has clearly paid dividends, with Sri Lanka winning not only their first Test abroad, but their first series too, soundly beating Pakistan 2-1 last October.

An abundance of talent has never been Sri Lanka's problem. Their cricket has been intermittently held back by the kind of internal bickering that makes the politics within Pakistani cricket seem positively acquiscent by comparison.

Who but Sri Lanka could go backwards after Siddath Wettimuny's double century had so boldly announced their arrival at Lord's in 1984, and the late 1980s were as bleak on the cricket field as they were on the is-

land's battlefields. The civil war most recently saw the withdrawal of both Australia and the West Indies from their World Cup matches in Sri Lanka, after a massive car bomb exploded in Colombo.

However, with Duleep Mendis once more installed as team manager to quell the off-field disputes, Sri Lanka have once more cast off their rookie status. In fact their captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, is the longest-serving Test player in the World Cup, and their current one-day experience far exceeds England's, with six of their players able to claim over a hundred caps to their name. As Ranatunga himself recently said: "We can beat any Test nation in the one-day game."

The primary reason for that stems from the fearless stroke-play of their batsmen which, despite the brilliance of their fielding, is often at full stretch to make up for the deficiencies in the bowling department - which, like England's, is steady rather than spectacular.

Mind you, the discovery of Chaminda Vaas, a left-arm opening bowler, has reduced their reliance upon spin which is just as well, considering their leading spinner and sole Tamil, the seemingly treble-jointed Muttiah Muralitharan, has had question marks raised over the legitimacy of his action.

Vaas can swing the ball both ways at a brisk enough pace to cause problems and many thought him the best pace bowler on either side, in the recent series against Australia.

There is no doubt they are a talented team and a major one-day force. Before the current tournament, Sri Lanka had lost 20 of their 26 World Cup matches since 1975. If they can win three more, starting with the game on Saturday, their status as minnows will be forgotten forever.

All Stevenage fans at Torquay now

Non-League notebook
RUPERT METCALF

The supporters and employees of Torquay United are taking an increasing interest in the fortunes of Stevenage Borough, the GM Vauxhall Conference leaders. In their current position, 12 points adrift at the bottom of the Endleigh League, Torquay need all the help they can get - and success for Stevenage represents their best hope of staying in the Third Division.

The problem for Stevenage is that, like Macclesfield last season and Kidderminster the year before, if they win the Conference they will not be promoted to the Football League because their stadium did not meet League requirements before the deadline at the end of last year. The main League requirements are a capacity of 6,000 and 1,000 seats under cover.

"It's completely unfair," Victor Green, the Stevenage chair-

man, said yesterday. "We still have not had a satisfactory reason from the Football League for the deadline being 31 December when we can give a concrete guarantee that our ground will be ready by the start of next season." Their Broadhall Way ground is owned by the local council, which is investing over £1m in improving the stadium.

The League is taking away the basic ingredient of sport by stopping achievement," Green said. "Promotion and relegation are what football is all about." His club have a three-point advantage and a game in hand over second-placed Macclesfield.

The Stevenage chairman added that three clubs - Barnet, Darlington and Rochdale - do not fulfil the League's ground requirements. "They have a further two seasons to put things right," he complained, "unlike us." Like Macclesfield and Kidderminster in the recent past, however, his protests may fall on deaf ears.

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مركز الامم

Venables promotes 'dirty word'

Football
GLENN MOORE

Terry Venables returned from Dortmund yesterday preaching the gospel according to Ajax and seeking further converts.

The England coach was an impressed spectator as the Dutch and European champions stroled to a 2-0 European Cup quarter-final first leg win at Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday. Afterwards, he said the English game, and his national team, should be striving to emulate Ajax. He also said it was an attainable goal.

"It is amazing that they are the best club team in the world. But no one copies them," he said. "It can be done. The intelligence comes from the coach, the information is passed on. It is like a teacher at school."

"We can do it. We do not reach for perfection. Yet, if you do that, you get excellence. If you aim for half, you do not even get that."

"I have no doubt you can do it fairly quickly. If you change something, you need success early on. I was fortunate at Barcelona. I changed everything and my first result was 3-0 away to Madrid. From then on they thought I was right - before they thought I was mad."

The Ajax way, in which players are inculcated in the club philosophy from the age of eight, is well known but Venables noted that Jari Litmanen, the Finn, and the Nigerian Finidi George and Nwankwo Kanu "have been there only two years. The Portuguese, the Spanish, the Italians are equally technically blessed, but strategically the Dutch are ahead. They know the game."

That point was superbly illustrated by Rudi Gullit during Sky TV's coverage of Monday's Newcastle-Manchester United match. The Dutchman raised the often discredited art of football punditry to a new level.

Gullit's career also exemplifies another Venables observation on the Dutch: "They have skill and intelligence, and they want to put that 'dirty word' in hard work. There are no many great players who do not work."

their socks off: look at [Dennis] Bergkamp [who practised volleys for 20 minutes after training last week before scoring from one against QPR] and Gullit. It is not an accident they keep producing these players."

"We live in a society where there has been the minimum amount of work, while expecting the best and actually falling behind. We get a lot of television money and what do the clubs do with it? They give the players three times as much - but they have not got any better. We have got to strive to achieve."

He is encouraged by meetings with the managers who had been in Europe to discuss what went on in other games. "Clubs have tried to change a bit and it is only for the better that we get together. As soon as you ask the questions 'are we good enough?' and 'can we improve?' we are on the way to doing so. In the past we felt we were good enough."

On a similar theme, Venables said he had found his get-togethers, in which he has time to impart his ideas without the pressure of producing a victory at the end of it, more useful than the matches.

Venables said he was still looking at systems for Euro 96. "I want us to be able to play in two or three ways, so I can change it if things are going wrong. I do not think anything is beyond this group of players."

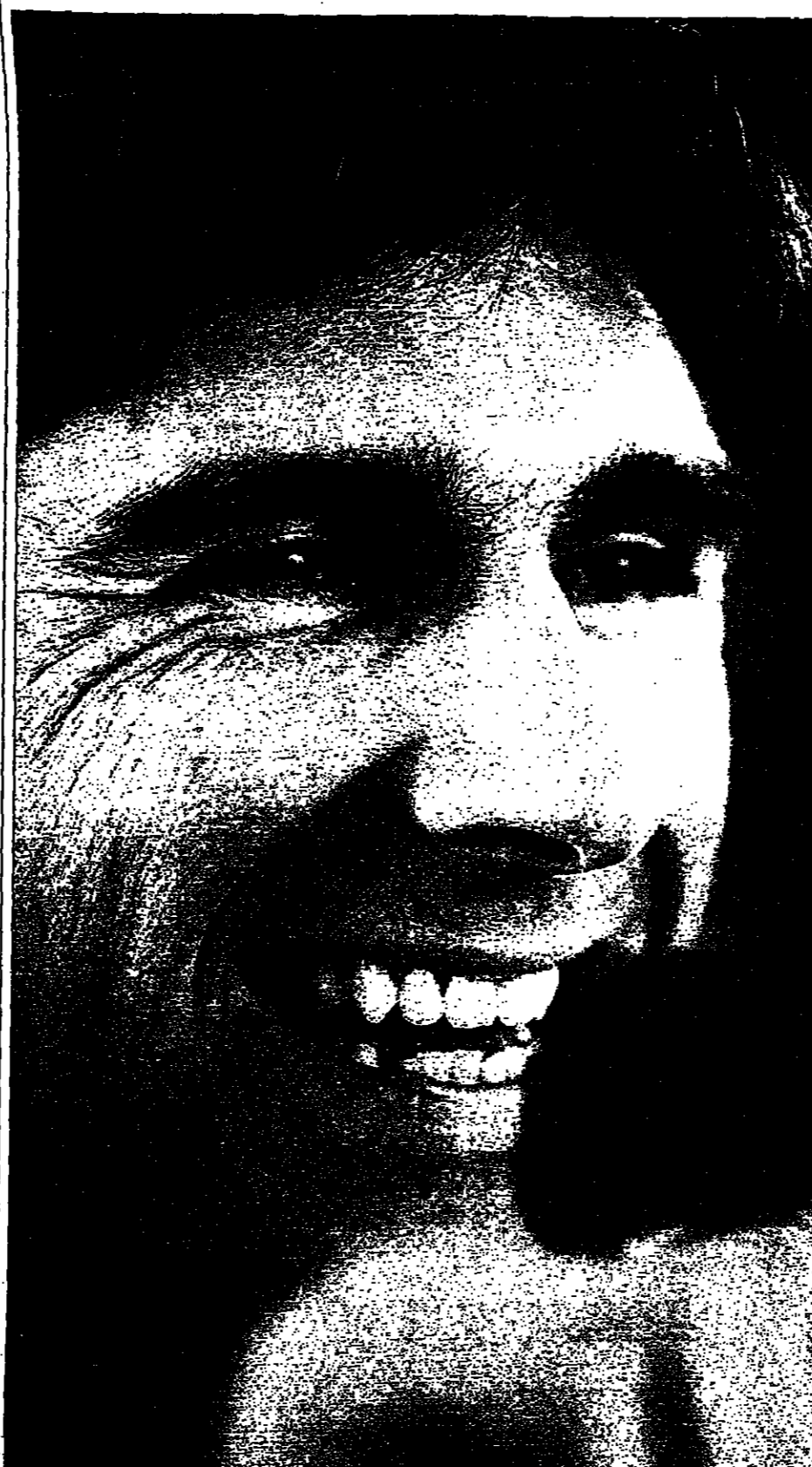
Also in Dortmund was Bert Vogts, the German national coach, who watched gloomily as Venables described Borussia as "prashistoric" - a phrase which was only slightly updated by another national manager, Switzerland's Arthur Jorg, when talking about England.

Jorge, who has recently taken over from Roy Hodgson, said of England's 3-1 win over the Swiss in October: "When they played ancient football they played very well and they gave the Swiss a lot of problems. When they tried to play European style, they were not difficult to contain."

Kidology - or genuine? Either way, Venables is unlikely to be diverted from attempting to turn English artisans into Dutch masters.

MOTOR RACING: Williams' No 1 driver faces a 'make or break' season. Derick Allsop reports

Hill races towards the crossroads



A relaxed Damon Hill looks forward to the start of the 1996 season in Melbourne: 'If I wasn't doing it, I wouldn't mind being a spectator this season' Photograph: Empics

A widely held belief is that this could prove the most open contest for years, another that Damon Hill has it on a plate. The British driver may be forgiven for thinking he cannot win, but no matter how studiously he plays down the issue, he knows he has to.

Anything short of the Formula One world championship this year could end his dream of the title for ever.

Over the past two seasons, Hill has endeavoured to show not only that he is a match for Michael Schumacher, but also that he is worthy of entering the same arena. He has waged his campaign against a backdrop of doubts that he has the talent and the mental durability. Worse still for the 35-year-old, many of those doubts have been raised within his own camp.

And so we arrive at the starting line for a new season - in Melbourne on Sunday - with Hill apparently confronting two possible routes: one to the championship, the other to the sack.

It has to be said that if this genuinely is the case, then Williams-Renault were perhaps irresponsible in entrusting him with what amounts to their main prospect of success. They do, after all, have the best car and may feel they ought to have had the drivers' championship in each of the past two years. Such a team should have absolute faith in their driver.

They were not, however, prepared to meet Schumacher's financial demands for this year and whatever their interest in Jean Alesi, Gerhard Berger, Heinz-Harald Frentzen or anyone else, they kept Hill and replaced David Coulthard with the IndyCar champion, Jacques Villeneuve.

Hill has done his best to bury the theory of his 'make or break' season beneath the mound of conjecture which habitually accompanies every facet of this cloistered environment. Williams, for their part, have done their utmost to present a united front.

For every mistimed tackle and wayward pass by Hill, Williams have been guilty of naive tactics and sloppy teamwork. Both have publicly acknowledged their failings and resolved to remedy them.

Hill's personal preparations have been meticulous. He has driven impressively in winter testing, trained diligently and, possibly most importantly, overhauled his mental approach.

For a start, he takes the view he has not been an abject failure so far. "Yes, I want to improve myself because I didn't win the championship last year and that has made me more determined to win it this time," he said.

"But last year was not a total disaster. I proved myself to be a contender for the championship for the second year running. I have the best record, in wins and poles to starts ratios, of anyone competing in Formula One."

His current multi-million pound contract and his new home - overlooking Killiney Bay in the Republic of Ireland - also serve to put his "failure" into perspective.

Even before last season had finished, Hill was bemoaning the fact he had not been assured No 1 status over Villeneuve, which he felt yielded the advantage to Schumacher, the undisputed senior driver at Benetton-Renault then and Ferrari now.

TOMORROW

Damon Hill begins a series of articles for the Independent by looking ahead to the 1996 championship campaign. The Williams driver will be giving his verdict on each grand prix throughout the season.

The returned, positive Hill said: "I'm confident in myself that I can win grands prix this season, but there's going to be competition. There's no way round that. Jacques is, I think, going to be a very good ingredient for the team. He's a good personality, he's quick, and he's going to make an impression, no question about it. He may well have the best first season of anyone in Formula One."

"But I've got more experience of Formula One, which I think I can put to good use. This is my fourth season and I can hopefully put it all together to really bring out the best in myself."

How, though, will he cope with Schumacher? It is possible he will not have to, such have been the pre-season problems at Ferrari. But Hill maintains he will not allow himself to be drawn into verbal sparring this season and is not about to drop his guard.

"I'm going to concentrate on myself from now on," Hill said. "But I find it hard to believe Michael and Ferrari won't be a serious threat. The investment they've made is stupendous and

the personnel they've gathered will provide them with all the information they need for an extremely competitive operation."

Hill has declared peace with Schumacher and everyone else. Most significantly, he appears to be at peace with himself.

He is, though, anxious for the kind of flying start that propelled Britain's last champion, Nigel Mansell, also in a Williams, towards his goal four years ago. It would firmly establish his rank in the team and give him breathing space before Schumacher and Villeneuve built their expected momentum later in the season.

The more immediate and sustained threat could come from Jean Alesi or Gerhard Berger, the new Benetton pair. Mika Hakkinen's form in testing for McLaren-Mercedes suggests he, too, may be quickly out of the blocks.

"Benetton are going to be hard to beat and I think it will be a very broad contest," Hill said. "I don't envisage a domination by any one individual. The regulations, in reducing the opportunity for a huge performance advantage for any one team, have closed up the competition."

"We saw some fantastic, incredibly close racing last year and that's what people want to see. If people don't turn on the goggle-box then Formula One racing is going to fizzle out and I'm going to be out of a job. We are there to show off our skills. If I wasn't doing it, I wouldn't mind being a spectator this season."

But then he is doing it and, as most of the sport's followers are saying, he has to do it this time.

"Well, I'm nothing if not resilient," he said. "It's taken me I don't know how many years to get in to Formula One, and in the past three years I've finished third, second, second. There's also a new resolve within the team, a real togetherness."

"We are much better prepared as a team and I, as an individual, am much better prepared. It's mental as well as physical. They go hand in glove. Of course the championship is my goal. But you can't promise any more than to try to do your best."

Whether his best will be good enough depends on the reliability of the Ferrari, the ability of Benetton to rise to the challenge of life without Schumacher, and Hill's authority over Villeneuve. The reality cannot be ignored: This is the Englishman's best and possibly last chance.

Heath returns to take charge at Turf Moor

Adrian Heath became the manager of Burnley yesterday - just three months after leaving Turf Moor, writes **Gay Holford**.

The 35-year-old former Everton striker succeeds Jimmy Mullen, who resigned last month after crowd demonstrations and a bad campaign.

Heath, who had been assistant manager under Howard Kendall at Sheffield United, said: "I have never known a town to have so much affection for its club. The expectations are high and the potential is enormous."

Oldham have signed Sheffield United's midfield player John Gannon on a free transfer, while Sunderland are willing to listen to offers for striker Brett Angell, who cost £600,000 from Everton last season.

Waddesfield are poised to complete the £150,000 signing of the Centre striker Rob Edwards. The 26-year-old, who has scored 21 goals for the Alex this season, is only on a week-to-week contract, having turned down a longer deal.

Sheffield Wednesday's full-back Ian Nolan could be out for the rest of the season after injuring knee ligaments in the 3-2 defeat at Aston Villa. A knee injury has also robbed Aberdeen of their captain, Stewart McKimmie, for tomorrow's Scottish Cup quarter-final with Airdrie at Pittodrie.

Roy Hodgson, the English-born coach of Internazionale, has been banned from the touchline for Sunday's Milan derby after insulting a referee during last weekend's match against Lazio. He was also fined £1,200.

The Euro 96 organisers yesterday revealed another 7,000 seats for the European Championship match between England and the Netherlands at Wembley on 18 June, while Scotland's allocation for their match with England three days earlier has risen from 7,000 to 8,100.

The news coincided with the selling of the millionth ticket, which means 80 per cent of all seats have been bought three months in advance of the event.

Murdoch 'could pull the plug'

Rugby League
DAVE HADFIELD

The Rugby League has admitted for the first time that Rupert Murdoch could scrap his contract with them if he fails to get the go-ahead for Super League in Australia.

That confirmation of fears surrounding the future of the game came in court in Sydney, where a lawyer representing the British League said that the plug could be pulled on Super League in Europe.

Alec Shand QC said that part of the agreement with Murdoch's News Corporation revolved around World Club Challenge matches between the top four Super League teams in Europe and Australia at the end of the season.

Shand, tabling an affidavit with England's three days earlier, has said that the game was played just one team since winning his long battle for fitness.

"If Alan was a forward, it would be a risk," Saints' coach, Shaun McRae, said. "As it is,

grounds to scrap their contract."

That is a stunning admission that events in Australia pose a direct threat to the game here, although it is not clear what jurisdiction an Australian court could have over the start of the competition here, which is due three weeks today.

The ARU's chairman, Ken Arthurson, had earlier dismissed proposals submitted by

the British League to run Super League in Australia.

The League, he said, "could not promote blanket sales in Alaska."

"Just look at their record. In 100 years, the English Rugby League has succeeded in expanding the game no further than its origins in Yorkshire and Lancashire."

Judge Burchett's rulings on submissions by both sides are expected today.

Paul Hulme, who has not played since bruising his ribs six weeks ago, has been included in the second row, while David Hulme, out for even longer with a head injury, is one of the two substitutes.

The Widnes coach, Doug Laughton, says that both the Hunt brothers feel fit enough to play in the semi-final at Wigan's Central Park, where their experience of big matches will be of immeasurable value.

Hunte's comeback heartens the Saints

I don't believe it is a risk, or I wouldn't have put him in."

Hunte, the leading try-scorer at Saints for five of his six seasons there, said: "It's a big match to come back in, but I'm confident about the knee."

He replaces Joey Hayes, who failed a fitness test on a hamstring injury yesterday morning.

Widnes have also gambled on proven class and experience, naming both the Hulme brothers in their line-up.

Smith and Charles turn to calculator

Sailing
STUART ALEXANDER

The fight between Lawrie Smith and Glyn Charles for the Star class place in Britain's Olympic team turned into a matter of mathematics after the third race of the Bascari Cup in Miami yesterday.

Charles was 54th and Smith 55th as the previously strong winds turned light, but both will discard those scores as their worst result. That means, in turn, they will now have to count the least damaging of the worst two scores they had previously discarded when eight races, two in this regatta and six in January, had been completed.

So while Charles had apparently increased his lead by one place, in fact he will now have to count a previous 23rd place. Smith a previous 18th. That means Smith gains a net four points and reduces Charles' lead from 13 place points to nine.

With a possible three races to go, Smith needs to post a score, on average, five points better than Charles in each race to secure the place in Savannah.

Three firsts from three starts made Brazil's Claudio Cardoso master of the testing conditions off Dubai yesterday and set him up as favourite to take the gold medal in the Hobie Cat 16 World Championships. With the fleet cut down from 300 to a final 56, there should be just three races today to give Cardoso a prize that has been so close to his grasp but has always eluded him.

The main threats to Cardoso come from William and Lucinda Edwards, of South Africa, and Mark Laruffa of Papua New Guinea, crewed by Liz Wardley. The only Britons left in the competition, Matthew Esles and Philip Hillard, are lying 33rd.

HOBIE CAT 16 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Dubai) Final standings after 13 races (net): 1. Cardoso (BRA) 63; 2. Edwards (RSA) 56; 3. Esles (GBR) 43; 4. Hillard (GBR) 33; 5. Esles (GBR) 33; 6. Hillard (GBR) 33; 7. Esles (GBR) 33; 8. Hillard (GBR) 33; 9. Esles (GBR) 33; 10. Hillard (GBR) 33; 11. Esles (GBR) 33; 12. Hillard (GBR) 33; 13. Esles (GBR) 33; 14. Hillard (GBR) 33; 15. Esles (GBR) 33; 16. Hillard (GBR) 33; 17. Esles (GBR) 33; 18. Hillard (GBR) 33; 19. Esles (GBR) 33; 20. Hillard (GBR) 33; 21. Esles (GBR) 33; 22. Hillard (GBR) 33; 23. Esles (GBR) 33; 24. Hillard (GBR) 33; 25. Esles (GBR) 33; 26. Hillard (GBR) 33; 27. Esles (GBR) 33; 28. Hillard (GBR) 33; 29. Esles (GBR) 33; 30. Hillard (GBR) 33; 31. Esles (GBR) 33; 32. Hillard (GBR) 33; 33. Esles (GBR) 33; 34. Hillard (GBR) 33; 35. Esles (GBR) 33; 36. Hillard (GBR) 33; 37. Esles (GBR) 33; 38. Hillard (GBR) 33; 39. Esles (GBR) 33; 40. Hillard (GBR) 33; 41. Esles (GBR) 33; 42. Hillard (GBR) 33; 43. Esles (GBR) 33; 44. Hillard (GBR) 33; 45. 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SPORT



"The first time was the biggest fight in the world. No fight can touch it"
Joe Frazier tells Ken Jones how he beat Muhammad Ali

Page 24

England must counter early barrage

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE
reports from Karachi

If you had asked Michael Atherton before the start of this World Cup which of the Test-playing nations he would prefer to meet in the quarter-finals, his answer, without question, would have been Sri Lanka. Ask him that question today, and it would probably be anyone but.

They say you have to beat all the best sides if you want to win

the cup, but so far Sri Lanka have not so much beaten opponents as marmalised them, rewriting the record books as they smile their way towards Faisalabad and tomorrow's match against England.

In the space of two weeks, Arjuna Ranatunga's team have become the most feared batting side in the tournament, swatting away fancied India as if it were a pesky mosquito, and generally treating opening bowlers with savage disregard.

Poor old England. Even when their skipper's pre-tour wishes are granted, they seem

to have a habit of backingfiring on them for, not only do they come up against the form side of the tournament, they may have to do without Dominic Cork, the one England bowler capable of taking vital early wickets with the new ball.

Cork, whose chances are rated by Ray Illingworth as no more than "50-50", is still having treatment on his troublesome knee and will undertake two bowling sessions today, in a bid to assess his fitness.

If Cork does not play, a three seamer attack plus two front-line spinners is the most likely option,

though having Dermot Reeve as one of the three seamers may be a risk. Atherton will not take, and it may be down to Graeme Hick to fulfil one of the spinning roles to accommodate him.

"It is vital we get it right against these boys in the first eight to 10 overs, so he has to be guaranteed 100 per cent fit," said Illingworth, sitting by the team hotel's pool in Karachi before yesterday's flight to Faisalabad – clearly overlooking the fact that Cork has not been all that fit since the recent tour of South Africa.

Illingworth is right, though.

Sri Lanka's early-order dashers, the left-hander Sanath Jayasuriya and right-handed Romesh Kaluwitharana, have been crucial to their electric starts, posting scores well over a hundred from the first 15 overs.

However, if the frenetic hitting poses a problem, another stems from the large amount of left-handers – four of the top six – and, in particular, the extra room bowlers seem to give them outside the off-stump. Room that allows them to gain leverage and a full swing of the bat, two components crucial to successful pinch hitting.

The ways of countering this kind of onslaught are largely unproven. Either you gamble and try and take wickets by attacking, or you bowl negatively (leg-stump yorkers) to a well thought-out field.

Either way you need to be flexible, a point also stressed by Illingworth. "There is no doubt we've got to bowl very straight," he said. "We may even bowl an off-spinner in the first 15 overs. But if it doesn't go just right, we've got to be flexible enough to change and the bowlers will have to be ready to bowl at a moment's notice." It could even

be Phil DeFreitas who will be asked to send down some turners – apparently he has bowled off-spin in the nets and even occasionally for Derbyshire.

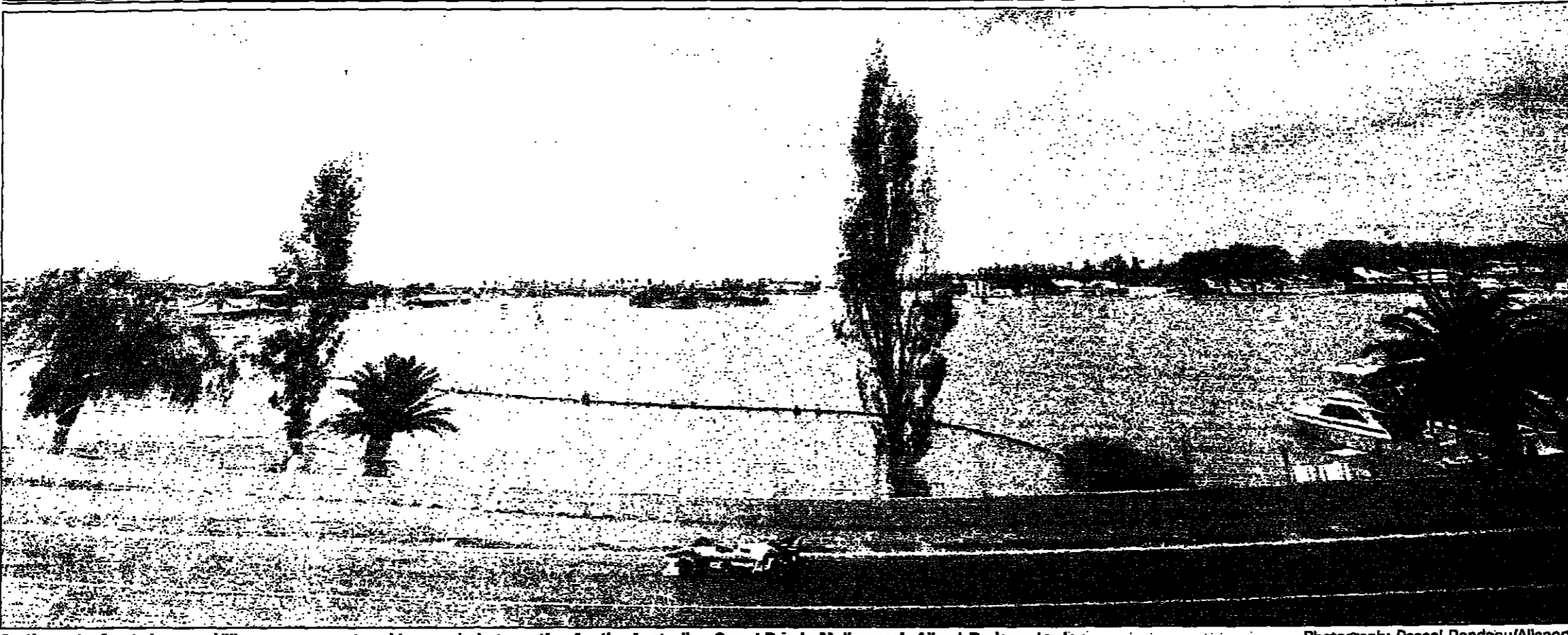
Clearly, with maybe no one to call upon to give England a breakthrough with the ball, someone will have to come off with the bat. "One-day cricket," Illingworth claims, "is all about your star performers playing well on the day. If Lara or Tendulkar get a hundred, their team wins. If Hick gets one for us, we'll hopefully win too."

Yet in spite of the daunting form book, England have rea-

son to take heart. For one thing, Sri Lanka do not have any match-winning bowlers, and the winners-take-all situation of the knock-out stage may well nudge away at the bravado of their batsmen. After all, they have had two walkover victories to help boost their *modus operandi*.

There is no doubt that, by treating the start of an innings like most sides used to bat at the "death", Sri Lanka have turned the conventions of one-day cricket on its head. Tomorrow, just for the day, it is up to England to stand upright again.

Battle of peacocks, page 29



On the waterfront: Jacques Villeneuve was out on his own during practice for the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne's Albert Park yesterday

Photograph: Pascal Rondeau/Allsport

Villeneuve powers in to signal danger for Hill

Motor racing

DAVID TREMAYNE
reports from Melbourne

Jacques Villeneuve yesterday landed the first blows in what promises to be an ongoing psychological war with his Williams team-mate Damon Hill, when he emerged a comfortable fastest after the first day of unofficial testing for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old Canadian

oozed confidence as he lapped a full second quicker than his more experienced partner. Benetton's Jean Alesi was third, ahead of Michael Schumacher and the relatively inexperienced but impressive Jos Verstappen in the Footwork.

Schumacher had a frustrating day in the radical new Ferrari. The world champion recorded the day's fourth fastest time but could manage only ninth in the afternoon session – behind his team-mate Eddie Irvine.

Schumacher said: "It is to be expected that we are struggling, as our car was later appearing than most of our rivals. We must be patient, and work hard."

Though Villeneuve's performance got his Formula One career off to a brilliant start, the controversial track that runs around Melbourne's Albert Park will offer greater grip, and therefore greater speeds, as the weekend progresses. "Jacques did an excellent job today," said Williams designer

Adrian Newey. "But Damon didn't really get a good crack at it. Don't write him off."

Villeneuve's immediate pace, however, will be the last thing Hill wants to see in the year in which he is favourite for his first world championship. It signals trouble ahead. "I was not expecting to be up there with such an advantage," Villeneuve said. "It is a surprise, but it feels great."

Though the circuit continues to prove highly unpopular with local protesters, who remain

steadfast in their plans to stage a demonstration on Sunday, it met with universal praise from the drivers. "It is a fun track," Hill said. "It is actually much better now, having driven on it, than I thought it was going to be yesterday."

Martin Brundle, 14th fastest in a Jordan, agreed: "It's good fun, and quick. It's a bit bumpy in places under braking, so you need to be careful not to lock up the wheels, but it flows well. "There are four places to

overtake, with a fifth if you're really brave – or desperate!"

The only cloud over Williams' day was the news that they are the only team yet to agree to the terms of the super-licences issued by the governing body, the FIA, following prolonged disagreements over insurance clauses. This is traditionally the time of year when drivers and governing body clash over such matters but by the end of the day Bernie Ecclestone, the FIA's vice president of marketing,

had stepped in to smooth over the situation, and Hill and Villeneuve were expected to fall into line by this morning.

Australian Grand Prix (Melbourne) Leading practice times: 1. Villeneuve (Ford) 1:23.456; 2. Hill (Williams) 1:24.567; 3. Alesi (Benetton) 1:25.678; 4. Schumacher (Ferrari) 1:26.789; 5. Verstappen (Footwork) 1:27.890; 6. R. Barrichello (Jordan) 1:28.901; 7. E. Irvine (Benetton) 1:29.012; 8. P. D. Martin (Williams) 1:30.123; 9. J. A. J. (Williams) 1:31.234; 10. M. Brundle (Jordan) 1:32.345; 11. N. Mansour (Footwork) 1:33.456; 12. D. Coulthard (Benetton) 1:34.567; 13. J. Herbert (Benetton) 1:35.678; 14. M. Badoer (Benetton) 1:36.789; 15. J. Agnew (Williams) 1:37.890.

Danger for Hill, page 27

Rules on imports relaxed

Football

GUY HODGSON

Football's transfer system, which has been in a state of flux since the Bosman verdict, changed again yesterday when the Department of Education and Employment relaxed rules concerning work permits for non-European Union players.

Allowing Ilie Dumitrescu and Marc Hotinger to join West Ham and Everton respectively, a revised criteria for foreign international footballers was announced, allowing them one transfer to a new club regardless of the number of first-team appearances for their previous club.

Cheryl Gillan, the Education and Employment Minister, said the decision, which followed consultation with the Football Association, Football League, Premier League and the Scottish FA, was "good news for football". She explained: "We have recognised it is important to allow British clubs to benefit from the contribution which top-class internationalists can make, while still ensuring that opportunities for young players from this country to break into top-flight football are not stifled."

Romania's Dumitrescu moved to West Ham from Tottenham nearly a month ago for £1.5m but his application for a new British work permit was refused because he had played fewer than 75 per cent of first-team matches for Spurs since his arrival in England. A similar situation delayed Switzerland's Hotinger joining Everton from Newcastle in a £750,000 deal.

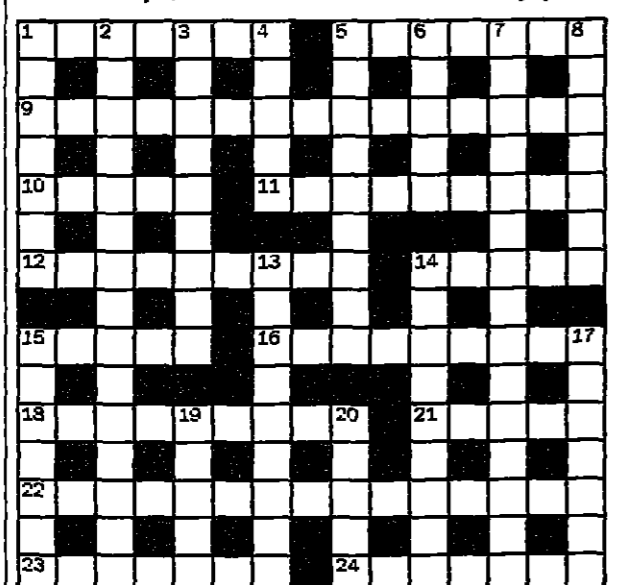
Venables' plan, page 27

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
in association with

No. 2929, Friday 8 March

By Sparus

Thursday's Solution



1. RAPTUNOUS INDIA
2. FLOOR TUNNELLED
3. STANDBY CROSS
4. STOPPING
5. HONORARIA REUSE
6. DEBIT ABONOTING
7. EU TIE CUS
8. LASSIED SEITHED

- ACROSS
- 1 No-trump one short, unfortunately – East constrained to resume seat (7)
 - 5 Calm account provided in film (7)
 - 9 Being impervious to pitch? (5,10)
 - 10 Pawnee takes impure article away (5)
 - 11 Pose that's modified very quickly (9)
 - 12 Bill normally puts work his way (9)
 - 14 Damp is discovered in periodic inspection (5)
 - 15 Write critique of broadcast variety show (5)
 - 16 Hovering around square till morning? (9)
 - 18 Putting parts together to build steam yacht – isn't she wonderful? (9)
 - 21 A second tea, or a coffee? (5)
 - 22 Comment on letters from a military viewpoint (11,14)
 - 23 Quality the French expect from garages (7)
 - 24 Dog shown with Queen in short film (7)

- DOWN
- 1 Small coin dropped into crack produces echo (7)
 - 2 Fellows who want to be Master? (4,11)
 - 3 In high temperature, a French female goes about bare (9)
 - 4 Advice needed about European Union connection (3-2)
 - 5 Show us paces in thrilling equestrian event (9)
 - 6 Eligible matrimonial prospect's unforeseen drawback (5)
 - 7 Ultimate manifestation of class structure? (9,6)
 - 8 Some musclemen tend to be gentle (7)
 - 13 Sort of picture you get with satellite? (9)
 - 14 Obsession girl's shown about bloke from Arabian sultanate (9)
 - 15 Return deposit after an interval (7)
 - 17 Carry around – for example – registered kitchen appliance (7)
 - 19 Bird seen by old priestess, sitting on pole (5)
 - 20 Satirist from Westminster, on national newspaper (5)

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Roe reveals that he was close to suicide

Golf

TIM GLOVER
reports from Rabat

Mark Roe, who has a reputation as an extrovert on the European Tour, yesterday revealed that he came close to committing suicide following the break-up of his marriage. He sat in the loft of his home and placed a shotgun in his mouth. "I'd got to the point where I didn't want to live any more," Roe said.

He released the safety catch on the gun and spent five minutes with his finger on the trigger before deciding that "this was pathetic". Roe's 16-year relationship with his wife, Jane, ended in divorce after he had met Julia Morris, an employee of the International Management Group. "Everybody is different," Roe said. "Barry Lane, Nick Faldo and David Feherty were involved in marriage break-ups yet Barry had the best season of his life. If somebody had ever suggested that I would think of taking my own life I'd have laughed at them."

Roe, 34, from Sheffield, said he was making a fresh start and wanted to get the story off his chest. "I've always been a very emotional person who wears his heart on his sleeve. I'm rebuilding my life. I'm still putting the jigsaw together." Roe, who has moved into a cottage in Castleton in Derbyshire with Ms Morris, has won £1.3m in a successful career on the European Tour. Last season he slumped from ninth to 126th but finished 13th in the US Open – the leading European – and earned a place in the Masters at Augusta National next month. He was fined £2,000 last summer for unprofessional conduct when, at a tournament in Sweden, he knocked a six-inch putt 20 yards off the green during a round of 94. He was also fined for pouring a bowl of spaghetti over the head of fellow professional Russell Claydon at a Paris restaurant.

Yesterday Roe shot 79 in the first round of the Moroccan Open but he was not in a frame of mind to telephone the Samaritans. "If I'd scored that 12 months ago I'd have gone home," Roe said. "I'm going to stay out here and work on my game." He added that he has disposed of the gun.

Meanwhile, Europe's Ryder Cup captain found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. Most people were thinking about cleaning their teeth when Seve Ballesteros teed off at 7.45am. The Cornishman drew a gallery of three people and they were rewarded with a round of 78, six over par.

"I don't want to talk about my swing any more," Ballesteros said. "I was hitting it all over the place. It's the same story all over again." When Ballesteros, fresh from a five-month sabbatical, entered the Moroccan Open the event was scheduled for Agadir. It was switched to the Royal Dar es Salaam here after Agadir took more rain than Manchester when Old Trafford is about to host a Test match.

The trouble is that Dar es Salaam, which was designed by the American Robert Trent Jones, is no place for those who are seeking recuperation. At 7,362 yards it is a long slog and, with cork trees lining the fairways, accuracy, as well as length,

is of paramount importance. Ballesteros was short and wayward. "I hit only five greens in regulation," he said. "I've no confidence at all."

Ballesteros, who had a solitary birdie, will have to find something today if he is to stand a chance of making the half-way cut. For inspiration he could do worse than to look at the chevron-like performance of the Frenchman Marc Farry. When it comes to lacking confidence, nobody was lower than Farry. He missed the first four cuts of the season and was disqualified in Durban where he failed to receive a wake-up call and missed his tee time.

So far this year his expenditure is £8,000, income zero and the result, as Mr Micawber would have observed, is misery. "It's been a nightmare," Farry said. "I can't stand the heat so I suffered in Singapore, Australia and South Africa but I had to take the gamble of playing in Morocco to try and make some money."

In a practice round on Wednesday his game was awful. "I was duck-hooking everything and duffing shots so I worked for a couple of hours on my swing." Yesterday he shot 69, one stroke off the lead held by the Swede Peter Hedblom. Farry, though, remains unconvinced that having turned into a prince one day, he will not reappear as a frog the next. "I don't know if my swing will hold up under pressure," he said.

MOROCCAN OPEN (Royal Dar es Salaam, Royal Leinster Free-round course 6900 yds) 1st round: 69 P. Houghton (Swe); 68 M. Farry (F); 67 G. Sorenson; 70 A. Dijk (Ger); 71 C. Thomas (W); 72 J. Sorenson; 73 J. Sorenson; 74 J. Sorenson; 75 J. Sorenson; 76 J. Sorenson; 77 J. Sorenson; 78 J. Sorenson; 79 J. Sorenson; 80 J. Sorenson; 81 J. Sorenson; 82 J. Sorenson; 83 J. Sorenson; 84 J. Sorenson; 85 J. Sorenson; 86 J. Sorenson; 87 J. Sorenson; 88 J. Sorenson; 89 J. Sorenson; 90 J. Sorenson; 91 J. Sorenson; 92 J. Sorenson; 93 J. Sorenson; 94 J. Sorenson; 95 J. Sorenson; 96 J. Sorenson; 97 J. Sorenson; 98 J. Sorenson; 99 J. Sorenson; 100 J. Sorenson.



Roe: working on his game

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